

## Baz to visit Amman and Baghdad

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak's foreign affairs adviser, Osama Baz, will leave for Jordan and Iraq Monday to deliver messages from the Egyptian leader, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday. The messages to the Jordanian and Iraqi leaders concern talks in Cairo in late December between Mr. Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Middle East developments, he said. In an interview with Al Akhbar newspaper published Sunday, Mr. Baz was quoted as saying a constructive dialogue between Jordan and Mr. Arafat would help greatly in achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement. "New moves must be made to resolve the Palestine problem as part of an all-out settlement of the entire Middle East conflict," he said.

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## Bomb explodes near Shawwa's house

TEL AVIV (R) — A bomb exploded Sunday in the backyard of the house of Rashid Al Shawwa, a former mayor of Gaza City, police said Saturday. Nobody was injured and damage was negligible, they added. The incident was reported under investigation.

## Explosion damages El Al Rome office

ROME (R) — A small bomb exploded shortly before midnight near the office of the Israeli airline El Al in Rome, causing damage but no injuries, police said Sunday. The 500-gramme device was initially thought to be a large firework, traditionally used to celebrate the new year in Italy. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Iraqi president reshuffles cabinet

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein reshuffled several cabinet ministers Sunday. Local Government Minister Kamel Yassin Rashid was appointed general-director of the regional leadership of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party. He was replaced by Adnan Daoud Salman, former governor of Karbala City. Youth Minister Ahmad Yassin Al Samir was appointed acting secretary-general of the Revolutionary Command Council and chief of the presidential cabinet, replacing Khaled Abdul Monem Rashid who was named advisor to the presidency.

## Irish bombings greet new year

BELFAST (R) — Irish guerrillas greeted the new year Sunday by planting incendiary bombs in northern Ireland and offering an amnesty to police informers. A few hours after midnight an incendiary bomb attached to a grille at a petrol station at Cookstown in County Tyrone exploded, causing slight damage. British troops found and defused a second bomb inside the building. The Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) guerrilla group offered informers seven days to come forward or face what it called deadly consequences.

## Pope reminds world of nuclear threat

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul said Sunday the threat of a nuclear disaster and the plague of hunger loomed on humanity's horizon like the deadly horsemen of the apocalypse. In a sermon in St. Peter's Basilica for the 17th World Day of Peace, the Pope also assailed the widening gap between rich and poor nations.

## Polisario reports new attack

PARIS (R) — The Polisario Front said Sunday its guerrillas had killed 154 Moroccan soldiers and destroyed 40 vehicles in a new large-scale offensive in the Western Sahara.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية عربية مستقلة، تأسست عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

## '84 expected to mark Jordan's commercial oil production

# Oil to flow in new year, officials say

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will start producing oil apparently in commercial quantities in 1984, according to well-informed government sources.

The sources told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i Saturday that a 1,500-metre deep well has started producing 400 barrels per day, which they described as a good sign that the area where exploration teams are engaged in digging contain oil in commercial quantities. The sources added that final results would appear very soon, probably within days, on production quantities.

Several foreign companies have been drilling for oil in Azrak, near the Iraqi-Jordanian border and Iraqi technicians have taken a prominent role in exploration work elsewhere in the country. The sources did not reveal the exact site where the new well has started production.

The sources said the oil produced in Jordan contains only one per cent of sulphur which makes the quality of the product very high and the refining process relatively simpler. Oil produced by some neighbouring countries contains six per cent sulphur, the sources said.

Jordan, which spent about JD 230 million buying Saudi oil in 1982, has been engaged in oil exploration for several years. The new find is expected to alleviate the burden of oil purchases considerably. Earlier this year Jordanian experts reported promising signs in

the various areas where oil exploration has been going on.

In the national budget for 1984, an amount of JD 6.1 million has been set aside for oil exploration, reflecting an increase of 15 per cent from the comparative figure for 1983.

Jordan imports about 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes of oil for the refinery in Zarqa. Oil refining facilities at the Zarqa plant are being expanded to meet the country's demand for refined products until the year 2000, according to senior officials at the refinery.

Exploration for shale oil has revealed that the Kingdom has vast reserves of the rock, but since the cost of producing oil from shale is highly expensive Jordan has not yet taken up tapping its shale reserves seriously.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that oil exploration work is being intensified and "if oil is not found, we would definitely find natural gas."

The confirmed discovery of oil in Jordan would boost the country's economy considerably, according to economic analysts. At present Jordan is heavily dependent on revenue from phosphate exports, and on Arab aid which has fallen considerably in recent years.

## Beirut ceasefire holds amid optimistic reports

BEIRUT (R) — Snipers opened fire on Lebanese army positions in southern Beirut Sunday but a ceasefire generally held amid reports that Lebanon's warring factions were close to agreement on a comprehensive peace plan.

State-run Beirut Radio said soldiers came under sporadic sniper fire at midday. It made no mention of casualties, but the Falangist radio said one civilian was wounded.

The ceasefire, declared on Dec. 27, ended three days of heavy fighting between the Lebanese army and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen in which at least 60 people were killed.

Informed sources said Saturday a meeting was expected to be held in Damascus early this week to consolidate the existing truce and to work out a formula for separating combatants in the suburbs.

the mountains and the southern Kharroub district.

The sources said the Lebanese army intelligence chief, Colonel Simon Kassib, and the ambassador to Switzerland, Johnny Abdo, were working out the final details after meetings in Amman with opposition leader Walid Junblatt.

The Beirut newspaper An Nahar said Mr. Junblatt telephoned President Amin Gemayel on Friday to discuss the possibility of an early meeting.

This would be a positive development in view of Mr. Junblatt's pessimistic prediction last week that he saw little hope for an early settlement in Lebanon.

In a new year address to his staff, Mr. Gemayel held out hope that Lebanon was about to embark "on many important steps to bring back stability and security to our country."

## Reagan maintains firm stand on Lebanon policy

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — President Reagan is determined to keep American Marines in Beirut despite growing congressional calls for re-examination of U.S. policy in Lebanon, the White House said Sunday.

"I do not see any major policy changes... the president feels his policy is the correct one," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

Mr. Speakes' comments came as opposition Democrats scheduled a meeting to reassess support of Mr. Reagan's policies in Lebanon and amid increasing unrest among members of the president's own Republican Party on the issue.

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas (Tip) O'Neill, would call his special

Lebanon monitoring group together early next week, one of his aides said.

Mr. O'Neill's support was crucial to Mr. Reagan in winning agreement from Congress in October, to keep the Marines in Lebanon for another 18 months, until early 1985.

Some Republicans also have suggested Mr. Reagan could lose congressional support if there is no diplomatic movement soon on the situation in Lebanon.

But Mr. Speakes, who is with Mr. Reagan on holiday here, said the White House would resist any change in the congressional mandate.

"U.S. Marines would leave Lebanon by mid-July; Congress reviewing U.S. role in Lebanon, page 2



A car ploughs through knee-deep water near the Sports City traffic junction as unexpected rains swept Jordan Sunday (photo by Yusef Ali 'Allan)

## 'Sunday rains were a windfall'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rains which Jordan enjoyed Sunday do not herald the beginning of the rainy season in the Kingdom, as the weather forecast for Monday by the Meteorological Department is moderate with a gradual rise in temperature.

An extension of a depression over the Red Sea extended northwards to the East Mediterranean, developing low atmospheric pressure over Cyprus Sunday morning. At the same time, a cold upper draught moved

towards the same area from North Africa causing the formation of thick clouds over Jordan which resulted in scattered rainfalls during the afternoon in the northern part of the Kingdom extending gradually southwards.

Sunday's rainfall is the first after a dry period lasting about 45 days. The situation is expected to last until Monday evening with a gradual drop in temperature. Dr. Ali Abanda, director of the Meteorological Department told the Jordan Times.

According to the department the rainy season is expected to start as late as February in Jordan. No substantial quantities of rain are expected to fall before that in the Kingdom, Dr. Abanda said.

Monday morning will be partly cloudy with scattered showers associated with thunderstorms.

Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In the Gulf of Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with probable scattered showers and winds southerly moderate and rough seas.

## No freeze planned on settlements in occupied territories Israel limits government spending

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's cabinet, under mounting pressure to salvage the country's floundering economy, Saturday set a limit on government spending for the coming year but did not resolve heated ministerial dispute over allocations.

After its second marathon debate in three days, the cabinet approved Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad's proposal to set a 1.4 trillion shekel ceiling on government spending, a cabinet spokesman said.

Israel's 200 per cent inflation complicates calculations of the budget in real terms. But economic reporters said the ceiling figure was based on 71.5 shekels to the dollar, meaning the 1984 budget was \$20.1 billion.

This is estimated to be approximately the same amount as was budgeted for the past year.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor told reporters all allocations among ministries had been referred to an economic ministerial committee which would bring proposals to the cabinet soon.

Mr. Cohen-Orgad, whose plan included slashing 60 billion shekels from earlier proposals, still faces bitter haggling in committee from ministers deeply divided over how to limit spending.

The government does not intend to freeze Jewish settlement in occupied Arab territories but the degree of spending there remained to be decided, Mr. Meridor said.

The ultra-nationalist Tehiya

Party earlier vowed to quit the coalition if spending on Jewish settlement, now about \$300 million to \$400 million a year, was frozen.

The tiny ethnic Tami Party opposes welfare cuts and the National Religious Party objects to new education fees.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens has been quoted in local media as being concerned over new military cuts and Deputy Prime Minister David Levy has said he will fight measures that could increase unemployment and reduce living standards.

Any defections from the government could cause a crisis for the Likud coalition which rules with only a four-seat majority in the 120-member Knesset.

## Nigerian coup leader promises efficient rule

LAGOS (R) — Major-General Mohammad Buhari emerged as Nigeria's new leader early Sunday, promising clean and efficient government after toppling what he called a corrupt, inept and insensitive civilian administration in an apparently bloodless and completely successful coup.

In a television broadcast just 20 minutes into the new year, Gen. Buhari, a Muslim from Nigeria's conservative north, did not appear to signal any drastic changes of policy from those followed by ousted President Shehu Shagari, also a northern Muslim who was re-elected to a fourth two-year term last August.

He said the new military government, whose members have yet to be announced, would not tolerate corruption and inefficiency, but with prudent management and an end to waste would be able to overcome the economic crisis that prompted the coup.

Gen. Buhari, 41, petroleum

minister in the military government that handed over power to the civilians after a general election in 1979, said Nigeria would remain a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He promised no immediate solutions to the economic crisis that followed a drastic cut in the country's vital oil exports because of a world glut, but said the crisis had been compounded by mismanagement by the Shagari government.

Gen. Buhari indicated his administration would retain some members of the ousted government's economic team, saying Mr. Shagari had been given good advice but ignored it.

He gave no precise details of the policies the government would follow but said current policies would be reviewed.

There was still no firm word on the fate of Mr. Shagari, 58, who was detained in Abuja on Friday night, informed sources said.

## French blasts kill 4, injure 50

PARIS (R) — Two powerful bombs ripped through the main railway station in Marseilles and through a high-speed train Saturday night, killing four people and injuring around 50.

No-one claimed responsibility for the twin blasts, which shattered France's new year revelry within minutes of a television broadcast by President Francois Mitterrand.

"There were people with their legs blown off and a man completely torn to pieces," said a sobbing eyewitness who escaped full force of the blast at St. Charles station.

The Interior Ministry said at first that four died and 28 were injured, but local police later corrected the number of deaths to two.

The bomb, apparently left in a suitcase in the left-luggage area, ripped through the crowded station leaving a crater one metre across.

Two died and 20 were injured, five seriously, by the other bomb which devastated a high-speed train travelling from Marseilles to Paris a few minutes earlier.

The train was near tain l'Hermitage in the Rhone valley when the blast blew the sides and roofs off the second and third carriages.

Officials of French national railways said the casualty toll on the sleek orange train could have been far higher had it been going at its full speed of 260 kilometres per hour.

## 73 Israelis killed in Lebanon in 1983

TEL AVIV (R) — Seventy-three Israelis were killed and 261 injured in attacks in Lebanon during 1983, according to end-of-year army figures. The most serious single incident was the suicide car bombing of an Israeli military base in the southern city of Tyre in November, which killed 29 Israelis. Altogether, the Israeli forces which have occupied southern Lebanon for the past 18 months came under guerrilla attack 500 times in 1983, with 87 incidents resulting in casualties, according to the figures. Three Lebanese civilians were injured Sunday morning when a roadside bomb apparently intended for an Israeli army patrol passing nearby exploded in the South Lebanese town of Nabatieh, Israeli army officials said. Israeli soldiers dismantled a 20-kilogramme explosive device Sunday near Tyre, military officials said.

## Arafat, Fateh leaders hold marathon talks

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leaders were locked in marathon talks Sunday after spending the night trying to chart future policy following Yasser Arafat's evacuation from Lebanon and his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Informed sources said a session of the Central Committee of Mr. Arafat's Fateh group which began Saturday night was still going on. Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of which Fateh is the largest faction, explained why he decided to meet Mr. Mubarak in Cairo 10 days ago although Egypt is still officially boycotted by the Arab League for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979, the sources said.

There was no indication how long the meeting would last and whether a communiqué would be issued.

Diplomatic sources said one of the issues the Central Committee was probably discussing was whether the time was ripe to set up a Palestinian government-in-exile.

The idea, first floated by assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, has been rejected by Mr. Arafat up to now.

But there were reports in the Arab press that the PLO leader was re-examining the idea after his meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

Such a government-in-exile

might gain diplomatic recognition from countries which hesitate to acknowledge a political organisation such as the PLO, diplomats said.

But they suggested that Mr. Arafat had maintained his authority within the PLO by preserving a large degree of independence from its factions and might find it harder to control a more formally organised and less flexible government-in-exile.

Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying in an interview with the Kuwaiti press last week that conditions were not favourable for setting up a Palestinian government-in-exile in Cairo now.

Pro-Arafat moderates at the PLO headquarters in Tunis told Western diplomats they hope for "a rapid and positive reaction from European governments to the reconciliation with Egypt."

But a separate source in Fateh said the movement's leadership must agree on a new strategy and "put the Palestinian house in order" before launching a diplomatic campaign for increased support from the European Community.

The Fateh Central Committee meeting is the first of a series expected to climax with a session of the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) in February or March, probably in Algiers, to decide the movement's strategy.

## Arafat critics want to attend Tunis meeting

By Leila G. Deeb

AMMAN — Four Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee members who had opposed Chairman Yasser Arafat are seeking his permission to attend a meeting in Tunis, PLO sources here said Sunday.

The sources named them as Abdul Mohsen Abu Meizar, an independent, Ahmad Al Yamani of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Yasser Abd Rabboo of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP), and

Mohammad Khalifah of the Syrian-backed Sa'qa.

The sources did not say why the four wanted to attend the meeting, which they had planned to boycott in protest against Mr. Arafat's talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, head of the only Arab state to sign a treaty with Israel.

Mr. Arafat, now in Tunis, is convening a meeting of the Central Committee of his Fateh group, the largest PLO faction, to seek support for his policies. Later, he is expected to chair an Executive Committee meeting.

## First Euromissiles go operational in Britain

LONDON (R) — American cruise nuclear missiles based in Europe were finally operational Sunday four years after the Western alliance pledged to deploy them to counter growing numbers of Soviet SS-20 rockets.

The new year began with British Defence Ministry officials saying that the first flight of 16 low-flying cruise missiles was ready for use at Greenham Common Air Force Base, 80 kilometres west of London.

"The first ground-launched cruise missiles at Greenham Common are now operational in accordance with NATO's December 1979 decision," a ministry spokesman said.

In West Germany the first of 108 Pershing-2 missiles were also operational at a U.S. army base near Stuttgart.

The NATO alliance therefore redeemed, in the face of fierce opposition from anti-nuclear groups, its pledge to deploy new medium-range weapons in Europe by 1984 in the absence of agreement on arms control with the Soviet Union.

NATO plans eventually to deploy 572 cruise and Pershing weapons in five European countries. Britain will eventually deploy 160 cruise missiles and 112 will be based in Italy, 96 in West Germany and 48 each in Belgium and

the Netherlands.

Both missiles are highly accurate single-warhead weapons. But the low-flying cruise, in effect a pilotless aircraft, would take hours to reach targets in the Soviet Union while the Pershings would take only 15 minutes.

## Protest campaign renewed

The Greenham Common Base, besieged by women protesters for two years, was the scene of fresh demonstrations Sunday with campaigners planning to release hundreds of helium-filled balloons carrying peace messages.

Six members of the Greenham Common women's campaign, which maintains a "peace camp" outside the main gate, were arrested in a midnight new year demonstration, police said.

Behind rings of police and troops, American technicians have rendered the cruise missiles operational in their concrete storage silos since they were flown in from Arizona in November.

But anti-nuclear activists, who have led demonstrations of up to 50,000 people at Greenham Common, said they could prevent the launch vehicle convoys practising deploying the weapons from the base as they are supposed to do in times of tension.

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## MIDDLE EAST

## Pertini moderates call for Italian troop withdrawal

ROME (R) — Italian President Sandro Pertini said the Italian contingent in the Beirut peacekeeping force should be withdrawn if full-scale war broke out, but he moderated his previous call for its early withdrawal.

In a year-end message to the nation on all three state-run television channels, Mr. Pertini, 87, said Saturday he was strongly opposed to involving the Italian contingent in a Lebanese war.

"I am decidedly against our contingent becoming involved in Lebanon in a war, even if it is a purely local one," he said.

But he added: "If our contingent can perform a peacekeeping role, let it remain in Lebanon."

"But if in Lebanon conditions arise such as to provoke a conflict, we must withdraw our contingent

and leave behind in Beirut only our field hospital."

The president, who has limited executive powers, emphasised he was expressing a personal view and was not seeking to influence the government.

On Dec. 23 he urged the withdrawal of Italy's contingent in the four-nation force and criticised U.S. actions in Lebanon.

In an end of year meeting with reporters at the Presidential Palace, Mr. Pertini said there was no longer any reason for Italian soldiers to remain in Beirut and said the Americans were there "in defence of Israel and not of peace".

His comments were sharply criticised by leaders of the centre-right Christian Democratic Party, the mainstay of the five-party Socialist-led government but endorsed by opposition Communists.

The government earlier this week informed the United States that it would continue to maintain troops in Beirut as part of the peacekeeping force which also includes American, French and British troops.

The more moderate tone of the president's remarks on Lebanon Saturday did not appear to reflect accommodation to any possible pressure from government leaders.

The president's office said the message was recorded on Dec. 22, the day before Mr. Pertini made his controversial remarks.

## Marines will be out of Lebanon by mid-July

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Marines stationed in Lebanon will be withdrawn before the Democratic Party's presidential nominating convention in mid-July, a senior Reagan administration official was quoted Saturday as saying.

Newsweek magazine did not name the official but quoted him as saying: "One way or another, they'll be out before we get a general-election opponent."

Democratic Congressional leaders were expected to meet early this week to decide whether they should try to rescind the authority Congress recently gave Mr. Reagan to keep the 1,800 Marines in Lebanon into 1985.

The leading Democratic presidential contender, Walter Mondale, issued a statement Saturday calling for the withdrawal of the Marines.

## Haddad enters Israeli hospital

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's closest Lebanese ally, militia leader Maj. Saad Haddad, went into an Israeli hospital Saturday for tests on a long-standing illness, a hospital spokeswoman said Sunday.

Israeli newspapers reported three months ago the militia leader was suffering from cancer but doctors have never officially confirmed the reports.

## Blast injures 3 Lebanese

TEL AVIV (R) — Three Lebanese civilians were injured Sunday when a roadside bomb exploded as they drove by in the South Lebanese town of Nabatiyah, Israeli army officials said.

The five-kilogramme bomb was apparently intended for an Israeli army patrol passing nearby, but none of the soldiers was hit, according to Israeli army radio.

Roadside bombs have become one of the most common weapons used against Israeli troops by Palestinian commandos and local residents opposed to Israel's 18-month occupation of South Lebanon.

In a similar occasion a bomb exploded Saturday near an Israeli military convoy on the coast road south of Sidon in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, Beirut Radio said.

There were no immediate details about the size of the explosion or whether it had caused casualties.

## Israel's Sheli Party members demonstrate against racism

NAZARETH (R) — Members of the left-wing Israeli Sheli Party demonstrated Saturday in upper Nazareth against racism and discrimination.

There were scuffles between local Jewish residents of the town overlooking Arab Nazareth and several dozen demonstrators protesting against the activities of supporters of the extremist Kach movement of Rabbi Meir Kahane, who are against the movement of Arabs from Nazareth to the modern township.

The demonstrators distributing leaflets and carried placards which read: "racism is a catastrophe" and "A strong Israel is a tolerant Israel". Police did not intervene.

The housing shortage in the ancient Arab town has induced a number of Arabs to buy flats and houses in adjacent upper Nazareth.

Residents have protested, saying the town was established as a Jewish settlement and the incursion of Arabs could jeopardise its Jewish character.

## Sidon women protest against Israeli arrests

SIDON (R) — About 100 women staged a sit-in at a mosque in this southern port Sunday to protest against the Israeli detention of their sons and relatives.

It was the first all-woman demonstration inside a mosque in the 18-month Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

Thousands of Muslims, responding to calls by Muslim religious leaders, staged sit-ins last week in mosques in Sidon and Beirut to protest against the Israeli occupation.

At Sunday's demonstration in Sidon's Za'atari Mosque, the women carried slogans and pictures of their sons and relatives detained by the Israeli military authorities. A march through the city was cancelled because of heavy rain.

"We want peace for our country and our youth," said one slogan. "We want our innocent sons released," read another.

Southern Lebanon remained sealed off from the rest of the country for the third day Sunday as Israeli forces kept all crossing points into their zone of control closed to traffic.

## Saudi prince to visit Egypt

RIYADH (R) — Prince Talal bin Abdullah, a leading member of the Saudi Arabian royal family, is expected to visit Egypt this week at the invitation of President Hosni Mubarak, informed sources said Sunday.

Prince Talal, who does not have official status in the Saudi government, is making the trip as president of the Gulf Fund, an independent financial foundation established in 1981.

The trip, starting on Saturday,

has been planned for more than three months and has nothing to do with the recent visit to Egypt by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, they said.

A 26-member Egyptian trade delegation Saturday left Saudi Arabia after a tour of Gulf states.

Although Egypt was boycotted by most Arab countries after it signed the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords, which led in 1979 to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the Gulf Fund has extended

\$900,000 in aid to projects in Egypt.

The fund was established with \$91 million, including \$50 million from Saudi Arabia, and the rest from Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

The fund is now believed to be short of cash because Iraq failed to pay its \$10 million share, while the United Arab Emirates has to find a further \$6 million and Qatar \$4 million, they said.

## Egypt regrets American pullout from UNESCO

CAIRO (R) — Egypt expressed regret Sunday at the decision of the United States to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Egypt was continuing diplomatic efforts to try to persuade the United States to reconsider its move.

The spokesman praised the role of UNESCO in safeguarding human heritage and promoting international scientific and cultural cooperation.

The United States, which provides one quarter of the UNESCO budget, served formal year's notice of withdrawal last Thursday.

"Egypt regrets the decision and will continue its diplomatic efforts to consider its policy towards the organisation," he said.

The United States had complained of what it said was budget mismanagement, politicisation and attempts to restrict press freedom and impose economic sanctions.

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## Mubarak appoints new Suez Canal chairman

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Saturday appointed a new chairman for the Suez Canal authority to replace Mubashir Ahmad Mubashir, who was pensioned off, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

MENA said the new chairman, Mohammad Adel Ezzat, 59, would assume his new office Sunday.

## Pravda attack brings already strained Soviet-Iran relations to new low

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Saturday said the rulers of Iran were influenced by blind fanaticism and warned Tehran to halt what it described as a growing anti-Soviet campaign.

A commentary published in the Communist Party daily Pravda was the fiercest Soviet attack on Iran to date and signalled a new low in the already strained relations between the neighbouring states.

The article was directed chiefly at the trial of members of Iran's banned Tudeh (Communist Party) by a special military tribunal on charges of spying for Moscow.

Pravda termed the proceedings a "judicial farce" and said they were "being used by the Iranian right-wing elements in the Tehran leadership to fan up hostility towards the Soviet Union and wreck relations with Moscow."

"The tribunal is characteristic of the atmosphere that is being generated in Iran. A state of hysteria, of physical and moral terror is being whipped up in every way," Pravda said.

The article was also published by official news agency TASS, making clear it reflected official Kremlin thinking.

Pravda said that ultra right-wing elements in the leadership were destroying the fruits of the 1979 revolution and were determined to stop all social and economic reforms.

"The 'ultras' are drawing the ruling regime onto a path of blind fanaticism, of total elimination of democratic freedoms, and trying to roll back the country to the times of cruel arbitrariness characteristic of the monarchy's despotism," it added.

times of cruel arbitrariness characteristic of the monarchy's despotism," it added.

The newspaper said that as part of this campaign the Iranian authorities were effectively joining forces with the United States by depicting Communist movements as subversive and obedient to Moscow.

"The trial in the Iranian capital is yet another link in the chain of provocations against the Soviet Union that are constantly being organised by the Western special services and above all by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency," it added.

Pravda declared that the military officers and Tudeh members who went on trial on Dec. 6 had been subject to torture and brainwashing but this had still not been enough to furnish proof of the "absurd charges" of spying.

The commentary declared that officials at the tribunal, including the judge and prosecutor, had uttered "impermissible lying inventions" about the Soviet Union.

This was part of an attempt to fan anti-Communist hysteria and sow hostility towards the Soviet Union among the Iranian people, it said.

The newspaper declared that the charges of spying were baseless and that it was untrue Moscow wanted any special rights or privileges in Iran, with which it shares a 2,500 kilometre border.

"That is why the Soviet people expect the dirty and totally groundless campaign of slander against the USSR to be stopped by the appropriate forces in Iran," Pravda said.

Otherwise the entire responsibility will rest with the guiding circles of that country," it added, without elaboration.

Moscow tried hard to establish close relations with Iran's Muslim leadership following the revolution, declaring full support for the ruling clergy and even endorsing the seizure of U.S. hostages by radical students.

But the Tehran leadership, deeply suspicious of both superpowers, refused to respond and last year launched a major campaign against the Tudeh Party, which had always had close links with Moscow.

Relations worsened with the arrest of Tudeh leaders earlier this year and the expulsion of 18 Soviet diplomats and officials on charges of spying.

The Pravda article indicated growing Kremlin anger with Tehran and suggested Moscow has now given up any hope of establishing working relations with the Iranian leadership.

In the past few months the Soviet Union has also been quietly abandoning its previous neutrality in the Gulf war and voicing increasing support for Iraq.

Pravda said more than 8,500 Tudeh members had been arrested in Tehran and said the present trial indicated that the leaders of the party and many of the other detainees would also be put before the courts.

It made clear that Moscow would regard such a move as a provocation which would cause still further damage to relations.

## Congress reviewing support for U.S. role in Lebanon

By Michael Posner  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress from both parties are taking a hard new look at the American military role in Lebanon after a sharply critical U.S. Defence Department report on the October bomb attack that killed more than 200 Marines in Beirut.

Several are demanding prompt withdrawal of the 1,800 U.S. Marines serving in the Multinational Force with British, French and Italian troops.

Others, including the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas O'Neill, are reviewing their positions.

President Reagan insists he has no plans to withdraw, but demands for a pullout or a shorter stay are likely to grow when Congress reconvenes on Jan. 23, congressional sources say.

The total U.S. military death count of 261 since September 1982, a continuing unstable political situation in Lebanon and confusion about the exact nature of the U.S. mission have added to growing anger and frustration in Congress.

New ammunition for critics of Mr. Reagan's policy came this past week in an unusually candid Pentagon assessment of security arrangements for the U.S. troops.

The inquiry by a commission headed by retired Admiral Robert Long was ordered to look into the security arrangements made before the suicide truck bombing leveled U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut on Oct. 23, killing 241 servicemen.

The commission's report cited inadequate intelligence but went beyond the narrower issue of security and concluded that the policy of stepping up U.S. military involvement had posed a threat to the safety of the Marines.

Mr. Reagan in a statement the day before the report was issued took blame on himself for the security lapse and said lower-level commanders should not be punished.

The president, who is expected to seek re-election in 1984, was apparently trying to pre-empt the report and limit political damage, but his remarks did not end the controversy.

U.S. Marines have been in Lebanon since Aug. 25, 1982, when they went in to oversee the exodus of Palestinian commandos in the aftermath of Israel's invasion.

They left on Sept. 10, 1982, but were asked to return later that month after the bombing assassination of Lebanese President Bashir Gemayel, who was succeeded by his brother Amin.

In a letter to Congress in August, 1982, concerning the U.S. role, Mr. Reagan said: "I want to emphasise that there is no intention or expectation that U.S. armed forces will become involved in hostilities."

But the Pentagon commission said the Marines' role had shifted, starting last March, when a "friendly environment" was disrupted by a grenade hurled at a Marine patrol, and had dramatically changed a month later, with the bomb attack that wrecked the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

However, despite anxieties in Congress about another Vietnam-style quagmire in Lebanon, the U.S. House and Senate passed legislation last Sept. 29 authorising the Marines to stay for 18 months more.

There have been suggestions recently that Congress might now seek to shorten the Marines' stay to six months, a proposal originally suggested before the September compromise.

Even if Congress did approve legislation calling for a pullout, the bill would have to go to Mr. Reagan, who could veto it if he disagreed. But growing opposition in Congress could influence the president's decisions on Lebanon, especially in an election year.

House Speaker O'Neill has called led a meeting for Tuesday of a monitoring group he named to follow developments in Lebanon, a move suggesting that the House Democratic leadership may ease off its earlier support for Mr. Reagan's policy.

One member of the group, Maryland Democrat Barbara Mikulski, this week strongly criticised the "murky" U.S. role in Lebanon and threatened to introduce legislation seeking the ouster of Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, a move not likely to succeed.

Senator William Roth, a Republican from Delaware who usually sides with Mr. Reagan, said after the Pentagon report: "The president showed great courage in sending the Marines into what everyone knew at the time would be a difficult assignment. The president should now show that same courage by admitting that this course of action has failed."

In a typical Democratic comment, Senator Alan Cranston, a candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, said of Mr. Reagan: "He has failed as our nation's civilian leader by using the military to try to deal with problems that should be handled by peaceful diplomacy."

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Airline Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. 108/3250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS  
07:00 ..... Cairo (EA)  
07:05 ..... Amman (RJ)  
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## MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in JLD  
Belgian franc ..... 66.6/ 67.7  
Dutch guilder ..... 121/ 121.7  
Egyptian pound ..... 321/ 325  
French franc ..... 44.6/ 44.9  
Irish dollar ..... 371/ 375  
Italian lire (for 100) ..... 22.5/ 22.5  
Japanese yen (for 100) ..... 159.7/ 160.7  
Kuwaiti dinar ..... 1265.6/ 1270  
Lebanese lira ..... 67.5/ 69  
Omani rial ..... 106.6/ 107  
Qatari riyal ..... 101/ 102  
Saudi riyal ..... 105.7/ 106  
Swedish crown ..... 46.2/ 46.5  
Swiss franc ..... 170.1/ 171.1  
Syrian lira ..... 571/ 58  
UAE dirham ..... 100.5/ 102  
U.S. sterling pound ..... 538.2/ 541.4  
U.S. dollar ..... 370.5/ 372.5  
W. German mark ..... 135.8/ 136.6

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be partly cloudy with scattered showers, possibly there will be thunder showers sometimes. Winds will be northerly to moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy, probably there will be scattered showers. Winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Low/high temperature in deg.C  
Amman ..... 5/10  
Amman ..... 10/18  
Doha ..... 4/12  
Jordan Valley ..... 9/16

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 11, Amman 20. Humidity readings: Amman 95 per cent, Amman 34 per cent.

DEPARTURES  
05:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Amman (RJ)  
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## Amman stocks rise by 33.3% in 1983

By Ziyad Al Shilleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The number of shares handled by the Amman Financial Market in the past year amounted to 61,079 million, registering an increase of 33.3 per cent over those of 1982, according to Dr. Hashem Al Sabbagh, the market's director.

He told a press conference in Amman the shares bore a value of JD140.668 million, an increase of 9.6 per cent over 1982's figures. Transactions (buying and selling of shares by the public) amounted to 113,419 — an increase of 20 per cent over those concluded in 1982, Dr. Sabbagh said.

Over the past three years the Amman Financial Market absorbed JD 330 million which has been used to finance development projects in Jordan. Dr. Sabbagh added. The volume of transactions conducted in 1978 amounted to JD 6 million compared with JD 155 million in 1983, and this reflects the growth of market's operations, Dr. Sabbagh said.

He said that a total of 95 companies with a total capital of JD 484 million had shares in the market in 1983 compared with 86 companies in 1982.

In 1983, 18 local companies offered shares to the public and were able to raise sufficient funds to finance their operations, Dr. Sabbagh said.

These included six industrial companies, one agricultural com-

pany, two real estate companies, eight companies specialising in offering services and a bank. The total value of these shares amounted to JD 69 million, Dr. Sabbagh said.

Last year's operations were marked by an increase in the number of shares offered for sale, a rise in the number of transactions concluded, a gradual decline in the shares' prices and a trend to buy and sell bank shares, Dr. Sabbagh said.

He said that the banks' shares offered for sale in 1983 were 16,421,523, almost 44 per cent of the total shares handled by the market.

Over the past year, the market has been able to increase cooperation with Arab states, and has offered technical advice to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Kuwait in financial market affairs, according to Dr. Sabbagh.

He said that the market has organised several training courses for employees of private sector companies and financial companies, and also raised the proficiency of its own staff through intensive courses.

Owing to the political stability in Jordan the country has a stable economy and this was reflected in the financial market's growth despite the world economic recession, Dr. Sabbagh said.

He predicted that the financial market will show a better performance in the new year.

## Tafileh technical college job to cost JD 647,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education and a local construction company Sunday signed an agreement for the construction of a community college at Tafileh, in southern Jordan.

Under the JD 647,000 agreement the company will build the college on 14,000 dunams of land in 26 months.

The college will give two-year

training courses in electricity, welding, mining, diesel mechanics, central heating and plumbing. Nearly 500 students will be accommodated at the college, which will turn out badly needed skilled workers in the southern regions.

Minister of Education Sa'id Tal and the general manager of the local company signed the agreement.

## North Yemeni team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A North Yemeni health delegation arrived in Amman Sunday on a three-day visit. Its members will hold talks at the Ministry of Health on bolstering Jordanian-North Yemeni cooperation in health affairs.

## 4 injured, 1000 crates destroyed in Sawalha fire

DEIR ALLA (J.T.) — Four people were reported injured in a huge fire which engulfed a warehouse containing wooden crates near here Friday.

A report in the daily Sawt Al Shaab said that the fire at Sawalha town in the central Jordan Valley destroyed 1,000 crates and caused damage to crops and other property together with a telephone post and nearby shops.

The paper said that fire engines from Deir Alla were not able to contain the fire and others from Salt had to be called in to help in the 3.5 hour operation.

Local inhabitants were able to save some of the vegetable crates the report said. The four injured persons sustained burns while trying to put out the fire, it added.

## Petra director in Oman for official visit

MUSCAT (Petra) — The Jordanian news agency Petra Director General Jawad Maraqa arrived here Friday on a visit to Oman. Mr. Maraqa will hold talks with Omani Information Ministry officials aiming at promoting cooperation between the Jordanian and Omani news agencies as well as coordinating the exchange of news between the two countries.

## RSS to apply stringent laws for tall buildings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Designs for buildings rising more than three floors should be approved by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) before Amman municipality can issue a building licence, according to a report in Al Dustour newspaper Sunday.

The paper, quoting informed sources at the municipality, said that a decision has been taken in this respect and has been circulated to all concerned bodies including the Jordanian Engineers Association "which is currently considering the new measure with deep interest." The paper said that the decision has been taken to ensure public safety.

## Hussein cables Numeiri

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of congratulations to President Jaafar Numeiri of Sudan on behalf of the people and the government of Jordan on the occasion of Sudan's Independence Day.

In his cable, the King wished President Numeiri success in the leadership of his people.

King consoles 2 families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated the assistant chief of Royal Protocol to convey his condolences to Al Bustami family on the death of Jamal Januel Al Bustami. The King also delegated the assistant chief of Royal Protocol to extend his condolences to the Zaza family on the death of Hassan Mustafa Zaza.



Officials carry the coffin of Mr. Walid Jamal Balkaz from the airliner in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

## Jordanian official's body arrives from Spain

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Walid Jamal Balkaz, an official at the Jordanian embassy in Madrid who was killed on Thursday, arrived in Amman Saturday.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid was delegated by His Majesty King Hussein to receive the body upon its arrival at the airport. Also present were Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim, Jordan's ambassador to Spain and relatives of the deceased.

The Jordanian government sent a special plane to Madrid to bring the body of Mr. Balkaz.

Mr. Balkaz was killed by an unidentified gunman shortly after

leaving the embassy in central Madrid. Another embassy official, Ibrahim Subhi Hamid, was wounded in the attack.

Spain condemns attack

In Madrid, Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran visited the Jordanian ambassador's residence to express his government's condemnation of the attack and delivered his condolences to the bereaved family of Mr. Balkaz.

The Spanish government is determined to take every possible measure to deter similar attacks on diplomatic missions in future, Mr. Moran said.

During the visit Mr. Moran presented Mrs. Balkaz with the Isabella medal. Mr. Moran later called at the hospital and visited Mr. Hamid, who is now receiving treatment.

Mr. Balkaz was buried in Amman Sunday. The funeral was attended by Prince Ra'd, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein and conveyed the King's condolences to the bereaved family. Also attending was Acting Foreign Minister Hassan Ibrahim, a number of officials, Jordan's ambassador to Spain and Mr. Balkaz's relatives and friends.

## Cabinet okays amendment drafts for municipal laws

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has approved amendment drafts for three laws. The laws are: The lands and buildings inside municipal boundaries, the law of Amman Water and Sewerage Authority inside the Amman Municipality area and the law of public sewerage of municipalities and the areas within their plans.

The amendment drafts already approved by the cabinet, will be referred to the National Consultative Council (NCC), include reductions in building tax from 17 per cent to 10 per cent, sewerage tax in the Amman municipality area from 4 to 3 per cent and the sewerage tax in municipalities and areas within their plans from 4 to 3 per cent.

The amendments come as a result of feelings by the Finance Min-

istry that the citizen should not pay a tax which exceeds a justifiable amount.

The present rate of land and building tax is relatively high and therefore, the amendment would achieve more justice.

To achieve this, a survey campaign of lands and buildings within municipal boundaries in the country will be launched to reassess present values of net rents in accordance with fixed, reasonable with which all assessment committees will abide.

Under the new amendments, the net rent value generated from the 1 sq. m. will be considered in the various areas in accordance with the classification of areas to be made which will be made under new regulations in this respect.

## Jordan boosts phosphate output by 7.7 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan produced 4.73 million tonnes of dry phosphates in the past year against 4.39 million in 1982, registering a 7.7 per cent increase, according to a spokesman for the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC).

He said that out of this the company sold 3.8 million tonnes in 1983 compared to 4.32 million in 1982, registering an increase of

13.7 per cent.

According to the spokesman the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company increased its purchases of Jordanian phosphates from 239,000 in 1982 to 620,000 last year. In accordance with the drawn up strategy JPMC will expand its operations and production in 1984 to reach six million tonnes, the spokesman said.

## Jordan seeks joint ventures with Italian industrialists

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry has distributed offers to Jordanian businessmen for setting up joint ventures with Italian companies and corporations.

The projects include industries of auto spare parts, salt refining, glassware, and car windshield wipers.

The chamber also requested those interested in the projects to call at its headquarters to arrange for the necessary procedures saying that the economic consultant at the Italian embassy in Amman has provided the chamber with a list of owners of Italian industries wishing to establish joint projects with Jordanian investors.

## Arab mining revenues drop seen in '83

AMMAN (J.T.) — Due to the world economic recession that lasted throughout 1983, there was a noticeable drop in revenues from mining projects in the Arab World, according to Arab Mining Company (Armico) Director Thabet Al Taher.

He said however that investment in new Arab mining projects continued in the past year partly due to a desire by Arab states to exploit their resources and so diversify their sources of income, and partly because it was not possible to stop projects in which so much capital had been invested.

Many of the existing mining projects in Arab countries were started before the recession period, and despite a drop in revenues Arab countries continued to support such projects, Mr. Taher said.

## South Korean delegation due

AMMAN (J.T.) — A South Korean parliamentary delegation is expected to arrive in Amman late this month for talks aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

The South Korean ambassador to Jordan Mr. Jai Sung Kim, told the Jordan Times that the date of the visit and the delegation's itinerary has not yet been decided but will be known within the next four days.

The purpose of this visit is to strengthen friendly relations between the two countries through a mutual dialogue between the two parliaments, Mr. Kim added.

A Jordanian parliamentary delegation visited South Korea in October to attend the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) during that period.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nearly 47,700 to take tawjihi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 47,700 students will sit for the first session of tawjihi (General Secondary School Certificate) examinations which is due to start in Jordan on Jan. 15, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Education. Of these, nearly 28,000 students will be taking the examinations' scientific stream and the rest will take the literary, agricultural, commercial, industrial, nursing and hotel management streams. The spokesman said that the ministry has assigned 592 examination halls for the students who will sit for the eight-day session. The second and final session is normally held in June.

### Chinese delegation due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the People's National Congress (PNC) from the People's Republic of China will visit Jordan on Jan. 9. During the week-long visit, the delegation led by the vice-chairman of the standing committee of the congress, Mr. Wang Ren Zhong, will meet the speakers of the Senate and the National Consultative Council (NCC) as well as senior officials to discuss ways of promoting cooperation in parliamentary affairs between Jordan and China. They are also scheduled to visit a number of historical and archaeological places as well as industrial installations in Jordan.

### JD 213,000 local loans okayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has requested the Cities and Villages Development Bank to lend ten local municipal councils loans amounting to JD 213,500 to carry out their projects. The funds will be used to finance construction of roads, schools and the electrification of villages.

### Zarqa committee chief resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chairman of Zarqa municipal committee Dr. Nofan Al Hmoud Wednesday submitted his resignation to the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, according to a story published Sunday in the daily Al Ra'i. It said that the resignation has been referred to the cabinet for consideration.

## The sky is the limit for unscrupulous landlords

By

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In Jordan there exists a housing problem. Not that flats are not available, but those offered for rent are beyond the reach of most of the population whose monthly income is hardly sufficient to pay the exorbitant sums landlords normally ask for rent.

The problem stems from the fact that flats are rather expensive to buy or to rent, the landlords being so avaricious; and the majority of the population have relatively low income.

Landlords normally ask for JD 120-250 a month for a modest two to three-bedroom flat, and this is definitely more than the average Jordanian can pay. The daily papers are full of advertisements about vacant flats for rent and for sale, and posters and signs normally alert the public wherever there are flats available. These buildings usually have neither gardens nor playgrounds for children or even balconies and car parking spaces. Such buildings can be found in Shmeisani, Jabal Amman and Jabal Hussein.

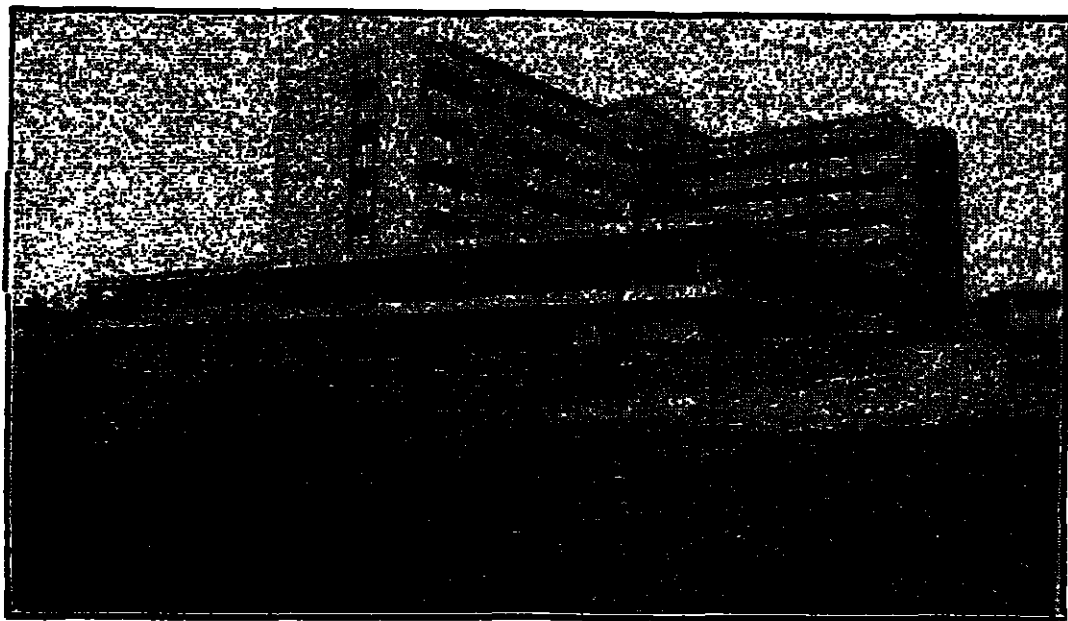
### The bare essentials

In an attempt to delve deeper into the housing problem, we met with Sa'id Abu Al Hamam, a bank employee who had searched for a suitable flat for 12 months before he finally found one.

Mr. Abu Al Hamam pays JD 100 a month for a two-bedroom house in Jabal Hussein. The flat has no heating facilities and is located on the fourth floor of a building without a lift. His wife is a school teacher whose salary barely covers the rent.

Mrs. Abu Al Hamam says that JD 100 a month is too much for the flat, which has a small kitchen and a tiny bathroom, but this seems adequate because the family is small at present.

Of course, Mrs. Abu Al Hamam could be considered a lucky woman because she was able to find a house. What about the hun-



New housing units are springing up, but how many can afford them?

dreds of others who cannot?

To know about such people, we talked to Rima, who is an employee in a private company. She said that she had been engaged for more than a year now but could not get married because she could not find a suitable flat. Any reasonable flat with one bedroom and a small lounge costs JD 100 a month to rent and "this is more than we can afford," Rima says.

Another family now living at Jabal Al Akhdar district in Amman has grown in number and it has become necessary to find a bigger house. But, according to the mother, Um Salim, this seems impossible in view of the high rates of rent.

"When we had four children the house was sufficient for us, but now we are nine altogether and the house is so small," Mrs. Um Salim complained.

My husband and I have spent more than six months looking for a suitable house with a reasonable rent but to no avail," she added.

She said that a house with a relatively reasonable rent could be found, but that would turn out to be too far from the children's sch-

ool and also inconvenient for her because she must travel so far to get grocery stuff every day.

### Leaking ceiling

Such a "reasonable" house with all the disadvantages costs JD 100 a month in rent, she said. As for the present home, it is an unhealthy place to live in because water leaks from the ceiling in winter, she said.

Amman who owns a building of eight flats in the Sports City district. Out of the eight flats, only three are let and the rent is just JD 120 per flat, Mr. Ammar said.

Upon examining the flats, we found out that each consists of three bedrooms and has all the modern utilities a family can hope for.

JD 120 a month is quite reasonable for such flats that have been provided with central heating and balconies.

### Fly in the ointment

But, to know the reason for this relatively "cheap" rent, we talked to the present tenants of the three

rented flats. They said that it is simply because the building could collapse in view of the presence of cracks in the eastern walls that appeared last winter. They believe that would-be tenants, upon seeing the cracks, believe the building might end up being their grave; only this fact led the landlord to reduce the rent.

A study conducted by the Department of Statistics has revealed that the average Jordanian family spends JD 138 a year on rent while the average spending on clothing and food is nearly JD 393 a year. In rural regions, however, an average of JD 110 is spent on rent.

The study showed that 1154 families — or 66 per cent of those interviewed in various governorates — own their houses, the remaining 34 per cent, live in rented homes. And, according to the study most families live in small two-bedroom houses.

What we need is to have fixed rates of rent in each governorate and city so that a reasonable amount of rent can be paid for a reasonable home — something that the average citizen can afford to pay.

## THE BRITISH COUNCIL

المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

### ENGLISH CLASSES

The British Council announces the commencement of the new term on Jan. 7 1984. Classes are for adults, aged 17 and over.

Dates of term: Jan. 7 - March 21  
Times of classes: Afternoons and evenings  
Ladies classes in the mornings.

Fee: JD 29  
Testing and registration will take place from Jan. 2 - 5.  
Testing 9.00 - 11.00 — 3.00 - 5.00  
Registration 9.00 - 12.00  
3.30 - 5.30

A fee of JD 0.500 will be charged for testing.

Teenagers please bring proof of age.

British Council  
Rainbow Street, Off. First Circle  
Tel. 36147/8

## THE BRITISH COUNCIL

المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

### Arabic classes

The British Council announces the commencement of the new term on Jan. 7th. Classes will be offered at two levels.

Dates of term: Jan. 7 - March 21  
Times of classes: Mornings.  
Fee: JD29.  
Registration will take place from Jan 2-5 from 9.00 - 12.00 and 3.30 - 5.30 p.m.

British Council  
Rainbow Street, off First Circle  
Tel. 36147/8



## DE FACTONOMICS

By T.A. Jaber

## Hopes for the new year

NINETEEN EIGHTY-THREE will not be remembered by many people with satisfaction nor with gratification.

It was a year during which international cold war intensified, strategic arms negotiations stopped, military buildup increased and violence expanded. The spirit of internationalism weakened in favour of narrow nationalist interests.

Economic cooperation reached a low point with many countries suffering from economic recession, unemployment, rising foreign debts and dwindling export earnings.

Our region of West Asia was not a clear exception to these events.

The failure to initiate a promising process of settling the

Palestinian question resulted in continued violence and bloodshed. The power struggle in Lebanon accelerated with yet unforeseen agreement to end Israeli occupation.

The Iraq-Iran war drained these and other countries resources and began to endanger the stability of the Gulf countries.

With the decline of world demand for OPEC oil and the lowering of oil prices in March 1983, the oil-exporting countries faced a liquidity squeeze which was transmitted to other countries in the region.

In spite of the gloomy expectations for economic and political events in 1984, let us hope for a happier turn in these events.

In our region, let us hope that the lessons of the past and the increasing social and eco-

nomical internal pressures will encourage rationality in addressing various questions.

The Palestinian question stands now at cross-roads, particularly after the failure of a compromise between the two factions, namely Arafat loyalists and the rebels. Peaceful settlement should be given another try by Mr. Arafat and his visit to Cairo proved that he is determined to pursue this course.

Mr. Arafat should be given a hand in his new endeavour by all those aspiring for a peaceful settlement.

While the Arabs are questioning the future options with marked differences the Israelis are facing the cold facts of the unbearable costs of their occupation and expansion. They will be forced to come to their sense and consider sincerely

peaceful coexistence with their neighbours. Their military superiority is challenged by its past success. It breeds violence everywhere and does not bring security even for the Israelis themselves.

Let us hope that in 1984 Mr. Arafat will be able to consolidate his ranks and come up with a final position. That Jordan and the Arafat-led PLO will agree on future relationship and action and that the United States will seize this opportunity to move vigorously towards a just and peaceful settlement.

Other developments in 1984 will certainly help in this process.

Progress in the national reconciliation among the Lebanese factions will help the central government there to become more representative and

have its authority accepted.

Failing to reach national agreement will endanger Lebanon's unity and sovereignty perhaps permanently. It will offer an invitation to continued Israeli occupation and result in *de facto* partition of the country.

In the economic field, let us hope that the world economic recession which started in 1980 will pass through its final stages in 1984 and signs of recovery will dominate thereafter.

If the economic growth in the United States continues at over 4 per cent in 1984 and other industrialised economies show similar signs, the world economy may stand at the end of this year to be healthier than at present. Projections for 1985 will be more optimistic with a possible new economic expansionary period.

Nineteen eighty-four will be a year of relatively hard choices for Jordan.

How to sustain our political stability in a volatile area while simultaneously searching for a just peace and how to maintain our development momentum while external financial sources are not growing.

How to attain full employment with rapid supply of labour and open doors for Arab workers and how to use taxation for income redistribution purposes without weakening investment incentives.

Let us again hope that we will find adequate answers to these and other questions so that 1984 will bring to the Jordanian people and others pleasant and favourable achievements to remember.

## Israel's settler terrorists

JEWISH settlers in the occupied Arab territories have stepped up their terrorist activities against mosques and other places of worship — the latest acts being the two explosions at mosques in Hebron on Friday. This time one of the two bombs injured one of the mosques' muezzins.

These activities are in the course of the almost daily practices by settlers who assume different names, but are all in fact Zionist groups specialising in terrorist activities. We cannot but believe that each Jewish settler in the West Bank has a specific role in these activities as most settlements are built around Arab towns.

It was also noticed that Palestinian towns around which most settlements are built are most exposed to terrorist activities, like in the case of Hebron and Nablus. These Israeli extremist groups have actually been assigned their jobs, directly or indirectly, by the Israeli military authorities to harass Arabs and launch attacks on their property.

Investigations have revealed that arms used by the settlers were supplied by the Israeli armed forces. Terrorist groups like Gush Azzam and Terror Against Terror (TNT), which reappeared after a 10-year absence, have been using explosives, guns and other weapons to carry out their attacks on the Arab population and these were all supplied by the military. They cannot but be unleashed, encouraged and supported by the military authorities to launch attacks on the Arab population.

In a bid to cover up these activities, the military authorities have invented various names and missions for these groups, classified them and put each one under a different cover.

Why, for instance, has the TNT group been launching attacks on Islamic places like mosques and others shouldering the task of attacking civilian inhabitants and their property? The ultimate goal of these operations is to intimidate the Arab population and force them into abandoning their homeland. What else could it be?

The more important question for now, however, is how we Arabs intend to counter the dangerous Israeli campaign.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

## Al Ra'i: An Arab summit needed

PEOPLE AROUND the world exchange wishes and compliments at the start of every year, and nations normally make assessments of the past year to determine their achievements and to detect shortages or failures so that these can be avoided in the new year. These nations work according to a sound system of planning, executing and assessing the results.

But in the Arab World things are quite different. It is true that people exchange goodwill and best wishes for the new year and yet fail to follow the example of other nations by assessing their events and developments as well as the work carried out in the past year so that they can avoid any shortages or failures in the future.

Even at the Arab summit meetings which are supposed to be held at least once a year, Arab leaders do not make any such assessments of their work during the past year. They fear as they say, to cause uneasiness or sensitive situations which might harm Arab solidarity. As a result of this policy the Arab World has been continuously deteriorating, politically, economically and socially.

The Arabs as a result have become an unimportant nation because they fail year after year to improve their status and keep up with development and modernisation. The Arab Nation is now in need of a general assessment of its past and an Arab summit is most needed to allow the leaders of the nation to conduct such an assessment.

## Al Dustour: Time to look back

WE LOOK forward to the new year with hope and determination to achieve our aspirations and peace in the Middle East region. The past year, 1983, was marked with sadness, crises and world tension unparalleled in the 20th century. 1983 witnessed world economic recession, increased poverty, inflation and growing debts of Third World nations. The advent of the new year witnesses all these crises and a possible nuclear confrontation between the superpowers.

The Arab Nation had no doubt had the lion's share in the past year's disasters and unhappy events. The Arab World, which has long been plagued by elements of weakness, division and disunity, had encountered more ordeals and more pain. The Iran-Iraq war continued unabated, the Lebanese crisis remained unresolved and the Palestinian resistance suffered devastating blows in Lebanon due to Israel's invasion and continued in-fighting among its various conflicting groups. Israel alone perhaps stood to gain from the past year's events as it continued its drive to evict Palestinians from their homeland and building settlements on their territory.

The Arab Nation is in need of a moment of contemplation for stocktaking and for learning lessons from the events of 1983.

## Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's arbitrary justice

IN THE past two weeks the Christian and Muslim holy places in the occupied Arab territories have witnessed Israeli terrorist acts. To find pretexts for the bomb explosions the Israeli president met with the leaders of the Christian communities in the Arab regions to accuse a "handful of extremists" for these actions.

On Saturday, two explosions occurred in Hebron's mosques perpetrated by the Israeli settlers whom the president described as "extremists". It is clear that the Israeli government has provided protection to these settlers or "extremists".

Otherwise they would not be able to carry out their terrorist actions against the religious places. These actions are a clear violation of the sanctity of religious places and rights of worship.

They can be interpreted as an escalation of Israeli arbitrary measures to force the Arab inhabitants to leave their homeland. We are surprised not to hear outraged voices in the West nor any protest at these violations of holy places or the violation of Arab human rights.

By Brian Urquhart

NEW YORK — The crisis in Lebanon has raised fundamental questions about the concept of peacekeeping — that is, about the use of military personnel for control of international conflicts. The success of peacekeeping depends on a sound political basis, a well defined mandate and objective, cooperation of the conflicting parties, firm but politically sensitive command and the attitude and understanding of their task by the peacekeeping soldiers.

After 35 years and some 13 United Nations peacekeeping operations, I have a dream that we shall have peacekeeping operations in which contingents from the United States and the Soviet Union join those of other countries under the mandate and directives of the Security Council to keep the peace and contain conflict in crises that threaten international peace and security.

Surely this must eventually happen if we are to have a relatively peaceful world. It is not such a new idea, being very much in the original spirit of the United Nations Charter.

In the Charter, a basic assumption is the unanimity and concerted action of the great powers in the face of threats to international peace and security or acts of aggression. And why should not the lion sometimes lie down with the lion, instead of terrifying all the lambs with the lion's mutual hostility?

Until that great step forward, we have to make do as best we can. The principles underlying United

Nations peacekeeping operations, as pioneered by Dag Hammarskjöld, Lester Pearson, Ralph Bunche and others, are relatively simple.

The peacekeepers must have broad political support and a broad base in the world community — that is, they must have Security Council support and be composed on a broad geographical basis. They must have a clear mandate and objective agreed upon by the Security Council and executed by the secretary-general and the commander in the field. Their aim is to bring about the cessation of hostilities and provide the pretext for peaceful conduct and the atmosphere for negotiation. They must remain absolutely above the conflict and not become part of it.

They must use force only in the last resort of self-defence. This means they may have to accept abuse, obstruction or harassment without taking reprisals. U.N. peacekeepers do not have enemies — difficult clients, perhaps, but not enemies.

The peacekeepers must act as an integrated force under a single United Nations commander responsible to the United Nations. In cases of difficulty or doubt, they can refer to the secretary-general, and if necessary to the Security Council — for instructions and guidance.

In operations using only unarmed United Nations military observers, the principles are much the same. Their function is to supervise ceasefires and assist the conflicting parties in maintaining them. They must have everyone's

confidence in their objectivity and impartiality. They must have complete freedom of movement and communication. They must be immune from threats, physical or otherwise.

Over and above the immediate local objectives of a United Nations peacekeeping operation is the need to control regional conflicts to avoid escalation into a wider — even global — conflict.

In Lebanon, we see that older concept of peacekeeping alongside the newer one of the multinational force. The latter has far greater firepower than any U.N.

peacekeeping force, as well as the backing and prestige of a superpower and three major European powers. But it has proved to be vulnerable when things get difficult.

The multinational force, for all its physical power, has a narrow political base that, in times of crisis, can cause its intentions to be, perhaps deliberately, misperceived by parties to the conflict. It does not have a single integrated command structure, and that is a hazard when bullets start to fly. Thus, through no fault of the contingents involved, the mul-

tinational force has tended to become a controversial factor.

In the complexities of Lebanon there is no easy solution, whatever international or multinational instruments are used. In 1982 the U.S. objection to a peacekeeping presence was from one side of the East-West divide. This year it is for the moment from the other. It is to be hoped that eventually the U.N. peacekeeping capacity may again be of value in pacifying this uniquely difficult and violent problem.

An inevitable precondition for this is an international consensus

on what can and should be done to help Lebanon. Only if there is general agreement on the approach to the problem outside Lebanon can international pressure be brought to bear in favour of concerted, unified action inside Lebanon. If that happens, peacekeeping will be better able to play its full role in bringing about a solution of the tragic dilemmas of the Lebanese government and people.

The writer is U.N. under-secretary-general for special political affairs. He contributed this article to the New York Times.

## He cannot stand UNESCO too

By John Rogers

Retur

LONDON — The U.S. decision to quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) marks a peak on a fluctuating graph of frustration in developed countries over a U.N. system that has passed out of their control.

While all remain committed to the U.N.'s ideals, countries have periodically distanced themselves from specialised U.N. agencies whose policy directions they see as running counter to their own national interests.

At the height of the cold war in the early 1950s, the Soviet Union pulled out of most U.N. agencies for two or three years, viewing them as pro-Western.

The United States left the International Labour Organisation (ILO) from 1977 to 1981, saying it was becoming a platform for Communist and Third World propaganda and dealing too much with extraneous political issues such as the Middle East.

The ILO paid more attention to union rights violations in Communist countries and, by this year, the tables had turned.

Poland cut off ties with the ILO last June after it set up a commission to investigate alleged violations of trade union rights in that country. Communist countries, charging pro-Western bias on ILO panels, sought changes in the system for reviewing how members abide by labour standards conventions.

Such political rows have never been far from the operations of the U.N.'s 17 specialised agencies, which deal with issues ranging from international finance and development to weather forecasting.

Arab countries regularly raise objections to Israel's policies and participation in U.N. meetings, causing friction with the United States and other supporters of the Jewish State.

East-West tensions sometimes spill over into the specialised agencies from the main U.N. organs, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Even the highly-regarded U.N.

high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR), whose work won the 1981 Nobel peace prize, does not escape controversy.

West Germany demanded this year that High Commissioner Poul Hartling should renounce a UNHCR report which sharply criticised its treatment of foreign workers seeking asylum.

The U.S. decision to quit UNESCO reflects the Reagan administration's policy of keeping a tight rein on the finances of U.N. organisations, to which it is the biggest contributor.

It also reflects a wider Western concern over the intrusion of politics, including an anti-Israeli line on the Middle East conflict, into UNESCO's specialist activities.

West Germany last week accused the agency of oversteering. It voiced regret at what it called UNESCO attempts to restrict freedom of information and an increasing burden put on its work by the pursuit of political themes.

Western countries have begun fighting UNESCO efforts to draw up a code of conduct for the international media, which they see as aimed at curbing "press freedom".

The U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO, which takes effect a year from now, follows sharp criticism in the United States of U.N. organisations, seen by many Americans as kept aloft on U.S. money but opposed to U.S. interests.

The U.N. and its agencies have long been targets of criticism, in which the solid work they have accomplished is overlooked, that they are expensive, unproductive talking-shops.

The U.N. felt obliged in 1982 to issue a report to remedy its image, especially in developed countries, as "an irrelevant, inefficient and swollen bureaucracy".

Western disillusion with the U.N. system stems largely from the effects of a big growth in membership from about 50 member states when the U.N. was founded in 1945 to more than 150 today.

The growing voting strength of newly independent countries whittled down and eventually wiped



out dependable majorities the West enjoyed in the early years.

Developing countries came to see the U.N. system as a vital tool for economic growth, and pushed the specialised agencies into allocating more resources for this purpose.

While contributing small sums to the U.N.'s budget of more than \$1.5 billion a year, they were able to outnumber the developed countries under the one-nation, one-vote system.

So-called "North-South" issues became increasingly contentious as developing countries demanded more resources for development.

In recent years, the West has resisted Third World demands for a "New International Economic Order" in which the West's domination of the world economic system set up after World War II would be reversed in favour of developing countries.

Western countries reject Third World calls for radical restructuring of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), which they dominate. Developing nations, in turn, object to tough conditions these agencies set for giving financial help.

The United States has played a leading role in fending off demands for increased development funding, antagonising even its close partners by refusing to inject major new resources into the International Development Association (IDA), which provides low-interest loans to the poorest countries.

## French judges sense racism in official identity checks

By Mary Ellen Bortin

Retur

PARIS (R) — In the crowded corridors of the République metro (underground) station in Paris, two police officers pull a black youth from the crush of passengers, check his papers and send him nervously on his way.

They are carrying out a "preventive" identity check, one of the methods being used to enforce a French government crackdown on illegal immigration announced in August.

Police say the checks have netted an increased number of illegal immigrants.

A member of the République metro squad said: "Each team checks up to 100 people a day, and we sometimes find 10 without legal residence papers."

But the preventive checks and other methods used by police and courts to deal with illegal immigrants have come under sharp attack from an influential group of leftist judges, the 1,000-member Magistrats Union.

At its recent annual congress, the union warned the methods raised moral and legal issues and could dangerously fuel and upsurge in racism sweeping France, which has 4.5 million legal immigrants and an unknown number of illegal foreigners.

"We do not take a position on the government's decision to close the borders," union President Simone Gaboriau said in an interview. "But we decided to speak out on what we see as a failure of the ideals of the Left."

Immigration has provoked hot nationwide debate in recent months amid a spate of racist shootings mainly against North Africans who make up one-third of the foreign population.

On coming to power in 1981, France's Socialist government granted legal status to more than 130,000 illegal immigrants.

But faced with an economic crisis, which has squeezed jobs and living conditions and been ac-

companied by a rise in anti-immigrant feeling, the government decided in the summer to clamp down on the remaining clandestine foreign workers.

Guidelines quietly introduced by Justice Minister Robert Badinter allowed police to intern illegal immigrants for up to a week and in some cases to escort them to the border without the right of appeal.

In recent weeks, entire neighbourhoods have been cordoned off as police systematically checked the status of residents. People found without proper residence papers have been brought before the courts.

"We believe the law does not allow this sort of mass identity control," Mrs. Gaboriau said after the union, outspoken in its attacks on French justice under former administrations, broke a 31-month silence to criticise Mr. Badinter last month.

She said the practice of preventive identity checks, made legal by a controversial public order law known as "Security and Liberty" passed a few months before the Socialists came to power, had institutionalised a form of racism.

"When police control passengers on the Paris underground, they go by physical appearance, skin colour. The practice is all the more dangerous since the Justice Ministry has said it was up to foreigners to prove their legal status," Mrs. Gaboriau said.

Although the Socialists promised to repeal the Security and Liberty Law, attempts at reform coincided with growing public anxiety about crime. When it finally came before parliament last June, a revised version maintained the preventive checks.

Henri Leclerc, a prominent leftist defence attorney who advised the government on the repeal of the law, said in an interview he had opposed the retention of the checks.

He also sharply criticised the principle of seven-day int-



crimment, designed by Mr. Badinter to ease prison overcrowding. "We have created situations which are humanly impossible and which must be ended immediately," he said.

Mr. Badinter, a human rights champion who abolished the guillotine on taking office, has long been accused by rightwing law-and-order campaigners of being soft on criminals.

But despite his reputation, Mr. Badinter has been forced to compromise on the immigrant issue largely due to economic pressure.

When the government announced its crackdown, it promised stiff fines for employers of clandestine labour, but very few employers have appeared in the courts, Mrs. Gaboriau said.

Describing the situation as "a terrible contradiction for a leftist government," she said the Socialists were unable to attack employers of clandestine labour in exporting sectors such as the garment industry because it would harm the economy.

Mr. Leclerc said the contradictions faced by the government were perhaps deepened by an excess of anti-immigrant zeal on the part of police, coupled with their reluctance to arrest businessmen.

"I am convinced of the government's good will in attempting to resolve the problem," he said. "But the consequences of the current situation are dangerous."

هكذا منذ الاصل



# Why give travellers the ineffective cholera shots?

By Sami Krishna Chohan

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Hundreds of travellers arriving at the Zia International Airport here, and at other international airports around the world, are asked: "Where is your cholera vaccination certificate?"

Few travellers know that the vaccination is ineffective, and may be dangerous. Only 20 countries still officially require the vaccination. These include some large nations on the Third World tra-

veller's map — Egypt, Libya, South Korea, Zambia and the Sudan — but also many nations which host few visitors — Albania, Angola, Brunei, Cape Verde, the Maldives, Swaziland and Pitcairn Island.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the cholera vaccination unnecessary more than a decade ago. WHO's International Health Regulations state clearly that the only certificate that should now be required is for yellow fever — and that for only a limited

number of international travellers.

However, ill-informed doctors, travel agencies and airlines continue to recommend the cholera vaccination, in the mistaken belief that it can do no harm and may do some good. Airport health staff still demand proof of vaccination, and even if you have not had the vaccination, will stamp your international vaccination card for a small bribe. Everyone is making money — except the travellers getting injected.

William Greenough, director of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), in Dhaka, points out that the cholera vaccination "has been part of modern medical mythology for 70 years". Though such vaccines have been used since 1980, none was ever vigorously tested until ICDDR,B began such work in the 1960s.

## Vaccines ineffective

By 1973 it had been scientifically established that injected vaccines were ineffective in either preventing or controlling the spread of cholera. Dr. Greenough says the only protection given by the existing cholera vaccine is for children already exposed to the germ, and it only protects them for three to six months. Injected vaccines not only waste money, they are dangerous. Large-scale vaccination at in-

ternational immunisation centres — especially in the Third World — has helped to spread hepatitis. The virus which causes hepatitis is carried from person to person through inadequately sterilised needles. Other diseases may be spread in the same way.

Cholera can kill, but survivors acquire three years' immunity against another attack. This immunity is produced in the intestines, not in the blood stream. Vaccines such as cholera and typhoid which are injected into the blood suppress the body's natural immune system in the intestines, where protection is needed.

Scientists now believe that a cholera vaccine is likely to work only if it contacts the intestinal surface where the disease attacks. This is how oral polio vaccine works. So researchers are focussing on oral cholera vaccines.

## Developing new vaccine

Researchers from Sweden, France and the U.S. have collaborated to develop a new vaccine, which may also protect against some of the commoner kinds of diarrhoea. For the past three years, volunteers in the U.S. have been given a far larger dose of cholera bacteria than would normally produce the disease. None of these contracted serious diarrhoea, although one third of them had some diarrhoea. More than half of those who had not taken the vaccine had the critical diarrhoea associated with cholera.

The ICDDR,B and the Bangladesh government will conduct large-scale field trials of this oral vaccine in 1984. The vaccine, which Dr. Greenough says "looks very promising", is a "killed" vaccine, containing dead cholera bacteria. The next step could be a

"live" vaccine, in which the bacteria are alive but do not produce the disease. As a live vaccine can, in effect, reproduce itself, it is much cheaper to manufacture.

Cholera's complex workings are not fully understood, but the disease-causing gene in the cholera bacterium has been identified. Scientists thought the next step would be to discover, or to engineer, a strain which lacked the harmful gene but which, when taken orally, would mimic cholera in the human gut and confer three years of immunity.

Scientists at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at Porton Down (a British government defence research laboratory, which used to work on biological warfare) have been working on a genetically-engineered live vaccine.

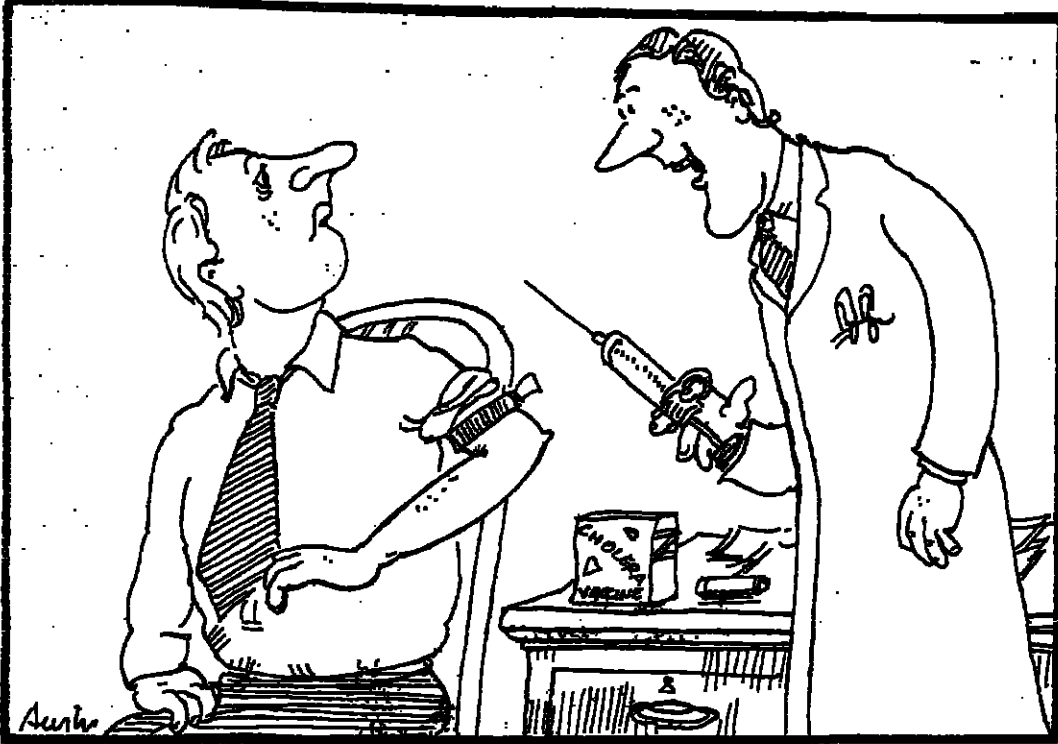
Other scientists have considered certain sea-living mutant strains of the cholera bacterium

for making an oral vaccine, as they seemed to lack the disease-causing gene and to be harmless.

But Indian microbiologist Dr. S.C. Sanyal, head of an ICDDR,B research team, has just discovered that these strains — and a laboratory-produced mutant — can produce cholera. They also become more virulent each time they pass through the human gut.

Dr. Sanyal's findings are a warning that the gene-deficient strains of the cholera germ must be studied much more thoroughly to develop a safe, living oral vaccine.

Meanwhile, what of the traveller advised by airlines and embassies to get a cholera vaccination certificate? A senior scientist at the ICDDR,B said doctors should give false certificates. He thought this was less dishonest than injecting people with a cholera vaccine which has been proven both ineffective and dangerous. — Earthscan feature.



"Oh no, the cholera vaccine won't help you at all, but it is helping me send my children through school!" (Earthscan photo).

## Dhaka centre develops 10-cent cure for cholera

By John Fullerton  
Reporter

DHAKA — Mafiz Uddin was dying when he was carried into hospital in deep shock with no pulse, but doctors said he would survive with the help of a 10-cent cure.

A 60-year-old slum dweller, he was a victim of cholera, a disease which kills five million children and an untold number of adults around the world each year.

Mafiz lies on a stretcher, one of hundreds packed into a hall in Dhaka's International Centre for Diarrhoeal Research, which treats

up to 100,000 patients each year. For the hard-pressed staff, it is like working in a battlefield casualty station. The one visible sign of hope is a large blackboard bearing the daily bulletin: "Deaths — nil."

Bangladesh is gripped by an annual cholera epidemic which coincides with the receding monsoon floods. The disease is transmitted mainly by fast-acting waterborne bacteria.

"A few years ago the word cholera was synonymous with death," according to M.R. Bashir, an associate director of the centre. "Now there is no reason why any-

one should die."

The centre has slashed its death rate by pioneering a cheap and rapid cure capable of being administered in every peasant household, no matter how poor or remote.

Death is usually caused by dehydration, but the centre's international research teams have found this can be cured by a simple solution of salt, potassium, bicarbonate of soda and sugar. A packet of rehydration salts costs less than 10 cents.

"I remember a case in the United States where a child failed to respond to treatment costing

\$4,000. The packet worked instead," Mr. Bashir said.

Where sugar is scarce, a solution containing cereal and molasses will do. A new cure based on corn or millet has been designed for Africa. In Asia, rice is used.

Local newspapers reported recently that 200 people had just died of cholera in one district and 121 more in the country's second largest city of Chittagong.

"One problem is the cost of producing enough packets for a nation of almost 100 million people," Mr. Bashir said. "Another issue is logistics — how do we sup-

ply the packets to all villages? Finally there is the problem of informing and training the village women."

Already the centre's outstations have found that areas where the cure and training have been provided have shown a dramatic drop in diarrhoea-related deaths.

"This has also had an impact on family planning," he said. "Families used to count on many of their children dying, so they had large families. Now they feel more comfortable with fewer children because they have a better prospect of survival."

## Bhutan trying to avoid environmental destruction, over-population

By Sundanda Datta-Ray

The Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan is one of Asia's most sparsely populated countries, yet it has embarked on a tentative policy of population planning.

The 24-year-old king, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, explains why: "We don't want problems 10 to 15 years from now". He is concerned about employment, pressures on the land which is suitable for cultivation and damage to the country's delicate ecological balance.

Bhutan is landlocked in the Himalayas, between India and China, and emerged from medieval isolation only recently. Statistics about the country are un-

reliable and so it is not easy for King Jigme and his planners to know about the extent of their country's needs.

Although a census was carried out in 1981, the king says that it may not be conclusive. Many Bhutanese, apparently, gave evasive or misleading answers, fearing new taxes or enforced labour. For what it is worth, however, the survey indicated a population of 1.16 million, a growth rate of 2.2 per cent and a density of 25 per square kilometre.

These figures are not worrying taken in isolation, but there are several additional, disturbing factors. First, 70 per cent of Bhutan's 46,500 square kilometres is for-

ested, 21 per cent of the land is mountainous wilderness and only 9 per cent is under the plough.

Secondly, almost two-thirds of the population is aged under 30, which suggests that the 1.73 figure projected for 2000 A.D. may be exceeded.

Finally, the concentration seems to be disproportionately heavy in the four (out of 18) tropical districts bordering India to the South. They account for nearly half of the total land, according to Dr. Thujee Yodhien, director of Health Services, have a growth rate of more than 8 per cent.

The attention of planners is therefore focused on the south where a \$700,000 Family Welfare Training Centre financed by the U.N.

Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), has just been completed in the steamy border town of Gaylephug.

Dr. Jigmi Singye, co-ordinator of the project, says that the south is relatively prosperous because it has some industries and has made a success of cash crops like oranges and cardamom. This raises the birth rate and increases longevity. "A couple becomes our target as soon as they get married. But we are not just interested in numbers. My real concern is with the under-fives, to immunize them and also to protect the health of their mothers."

In fact, birth control still plays only a small part, though the Bhutanese claim that 500 people were sterilised last year. Modest incentives (\$2.20 for motivators and nearly \$20 for acceptors) are offered. But the scheme may be abandoned since it has been known for two or three motivators to claim the same case and for husbands to pocket the money given in their wives, says Dr. Pema Wangyel Samdrup, superintendent of Health Services.

"We don't want to go looking for people to influence them and operate on them," says the king. Instead, he stresses the importance of population studies which are now being incorporated into school curricula. There is a network of 50 basic health units

with several additions every year to improve maternal and child health, raise life expectancy (now 43.3 years) and lower infant mortality. This can be as high as 300 per 1,000 in Bhutan, although the average is 117.

Assistance from the World Health Organisation, which Bhutan joined last year, is expected to give impetus to the existing campaign to provide clean water, to provide instruction in hygiene and to reduce the incidence of measles, pneumonia, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and diarrhoea.

The basic health units I visited did not attempt to prevent births. They tried to space them out in-

stead, and distributed free oral contraceptives from the UNFPA. Vasectomy and tubectomy operations are performed in a few hospitals, but the acceptor has to have a certificate from the district commissioner to say that he or she already has five children.

A more explicit strategy on family planning may be formulated when the detailed enumeration now in progress makes more information available. But poor communications and the rough terrain — basic health workers spend about 15 to 20 days every month touring on foot, visiting scattered villages) may make a streamlined system difficult.

The Bhutanese have also noted the impact of population growth in

India, and the environmental destruction caused in Nepal. "We have learnt from our neighbours that no economic planning is possible without population planning," says Dr. Samdrup.

As yet, this is only an intention. But the current \$455 m Five-year Plan (1981-85) is committed to "improving the quality of life of the people through the provision of all the basic social amenities such as educational facilities, health services, drinking-water supply, an efficient public distribution system".

Most Bhutanese agree that to realise such an aim, the government must take over steps to regulate numbers. — People News/Features

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## Pakistan must do without Qasim

**SYDNEY (R) —** Pakistan have failed to acquire the services of left-arm spinner Iqbal Qasim for the deciding fifth test against Australia starting at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday.

The touring side's management was told by the Pakistan Control Board that the request for the experienced Qasim to be flown out for the final match of the series had come too late.

It is a tremendous blow to Pakistan whose bowling was patently under-strength in the fourth test. The touring side must win here to share the series 1-1, the last three tests all having been drawn after Australia won the first by an innings and nine runs.

Pakistan played only three front-line bowlers in the fourth test, the medium-fast pair Sarfraz Nawaz and Azeem Hafeez and wrist-spinner Abdul Qadir. They

wanted Qasim to strengthen their attack here and may now have to fall back on injured off-spinner Mohammed Nazir, who has a badly bruised finger.

With heavy rain falling Sunday, the need for a well-balanced attack became even greater. "Qasim would have made a difference," said Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam.

Intikhab ruled out the possibility of the bowling numbers being made up by captain Imran Khan, who returned to the Pakistan side for the fourth test and batted splendidly to make 83 and 72 not out. Imran is still regaining full fitness after a prolonged absence with a stress fracture to the left shin.

## Paris-Dakar Motor Rally kicks off

**PARIS (R) —** Several hundred cars, motorbikes and trucks heading for the Sahara Desert brought Paris its first traffic jam of 1984 as the sixth Paris-Dakar Motor Rally got under way Sunday.

Streets around the Place de la Concorde, starting point for the 12,000-km (7,460-mile) event, were packed with onlookers as the first of some 300 competitors drove away in darkness.

The rally lasts 20 days and only a small proportion of the 253 cars, 114 motorbikes and 31 trucks are expected to reach the finish in Senegal.

The route takes in some of the most desolate areas of the Sahara Desert, winding through Algeria, Niger, Upper Volta, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

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Competitors, driving a wide variety of vehicles ranging from turbo-powered lorries to a Citroen 2CV, include French astronaut Jean-Loup Chretien and President Francois Mitterrand's personal chauffeur.

Belgian driver Jacky Ickx, last year's winner, is sharing a Porsche with French actor Claude Brasseur, one of several show business personalities taking part.

Despite the toughness of the route competitors have been spared the task of propelling themselves across the Mediterranean, and will travel in relative comfort aboard a ferry from the French port of Sete to Algiers.

## 7 climbers killed in Japan

**TOKYO (R) —** Seven climbers have been killed and eight others injured in an avalanche and falls in snow-covered mountains in central Japan, police said Sunday.

An avalanche engulfed a party of 13 climbers Sunday on Mount Kashima Yariyake in the northern Alps, carrying them about 500 metres (yards) down 2,800-metre (9,500 feet) mountain, they said.

Five of the party, including three women, were killed and eight others injured.

In the southern Alps two climbers were found dead Sunday.

# Magic show for '84 Olympics

By Rachel Shuster

**LOS ANGELES —** Graphics artists and their computers, working at the American Broadcasting Companies (ABC) in New York City, are generating thousands of three-dimensional contortions and millions of colour combinations that will appear on television screens around the world during coverage of the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, and Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California.

Sarajevo snowflakes spin through space as an animated symbol of the Winter Games. Red, white and blue stars merge into a graphics design for the Summer Games. And, golden arches of differing heights pop onto the screen so viewers can compare a pole vaulter's three attempts.

One special effect in the works: Equip several runners with "pulse watches" to monitor their heartbeats and send electronic signals to the TV screen during various legs of the marathon.

Another effect repeats animation first designed for ABC's television coverage of the U.S. space shuttle. A tiny orbiter shoots onto the screen with a trailing phrase such as, "Coming up next: 90-metre ski jumping".

The range of graphic detail is limited only by the imagination of the "paintbox" operators and keyboard wizards who make up the 12-person Olympic Creative Services unit.

Every American television company prides itself on creating special effects. National Broadcasting Company (NBC) unveiled its "mirage" effect at the recent World Track and Field

Championships from Helsinki, Finland: A flag in the right corner of the screen would grow full frame and then peel, revealing videotape of an athlete setting a world record.

ABC will be relying on a \$125,000 electronic computer.

At the mere touch of a stylus to the machine's white, square board, artist Beverly Simone calls up an array of colours onto a computer screen. It is sort of a paint-by-the-numbers process, without benefit of numbers: Simone possesses a good memory. A touch of the stylus to another two spots and sky blue is airbrushed onto the screen: more than one million colour combinations are available. Another touch calls up previously recorded pictures, from skiing to swimming, that will serve as background when statistics are flashed on the screen.

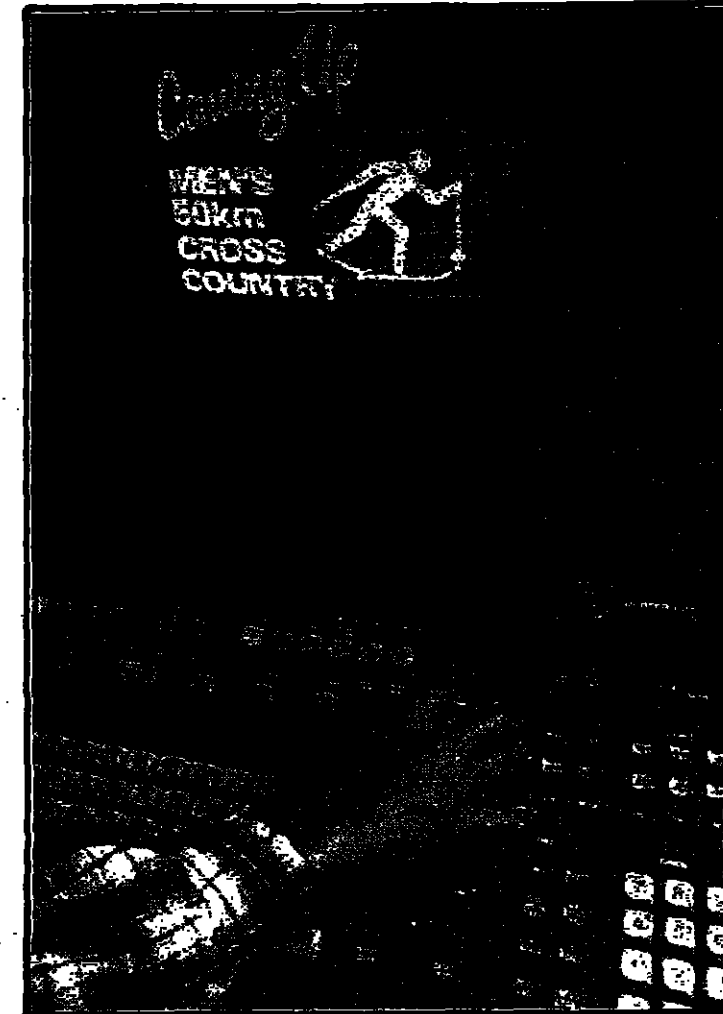
In the next instant, Simone calls up a shot of three ice skates, from hockey, speedskating and figure skating. Then, she blows up the hockey skate almost full screen and rotates it 90 degrees, a twist enabling Olympic announcers to explain the uniqueness of that blade. "Your hand-eye coordination is very important, just like when you're playing video games," she says.

"What we are trying to do is enhance our presentation," says Roger Goodman, 38, the creative genius behind the dazzling television graphic displays.

"We want the fans to see a smoother programme. We want them to say, 'I liked your coverage.' But if you asked them what they liked, they probably couldn't answer."

And that is the \$1 million effect.

— USA Today



Computer graphics special effects, displayed by American Broadcasting Companies artist, will be used by the U.S. television firm during its worldwide broadcast of the 1984 Winter and Summer Olympic Games. A wide range of animated graphics in vivid colours will be projected by special computers to announce upcoming Olympic events. (Photo by Steve Fenn/ABC)

## Top seed beaten in South Australian Open

**ADELAIDE (R) —** Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir dumped top-seeded Chris Lewis out of the South Australian Men's Open Tennis Championship Sunday.

Mecir, armed with a classy array of ground strokes including an impressive double-handed backhand, beat the New Zealander 7-5, 6-7, 6-1 in one of the day's four quarter-finals.

His win earned him an unexpected semifinal clash with Australian Davis Cup player Paul McNamee, a 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 winner over American Chip Hooper.

After his defeat Lewis said: "I've been struggling since I got here. I said I was playing well but

really I was trying to talk myself into it.

"Today it just felt like I wasn't on court — like I was day-dreaming. You don't win matches when you're in that frame of mind."

Lewis was one of three surprise casualties Sunday, the other big names to fall by the wayside being John Fitzgerald and Pat Cash who helped Australia to victory in the Davis Cup final against Sweden last week.

American Leif Shiras saved a match point in the third set to beat Fitzgerald 7-6, 4-6, 7-6 in a second round match.

## Olga Korbut takes up dressage

**MOSCOW (R) —** Olga Korbut, the Soviet gymnast who won three gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics and gained countless admirers with her daring routines and winning smiles, has taken up horse riding and hopes to start competing in dressage this year.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, the Young Communists' daily, reported that Korbut, who retired in 1977, began training on horses after Olympic dressage champion Viktor Ugrumov half-jokingly invited her to join his training group in their home town of Minsk, Soviet Belorussia.

Korbut, 27, took him seriously and now trains several hours a day in an effort to master intricate dressage techniques by the spring when she aims to enter competitions with her horse Kulon.

She told the newspaper she considered horse riding the most beautiful of all sports. When the Soviet reporter pointed out gymnastics had earlier been her one love, she replied: "Perhaps I thought so earlier. But now I do not."

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## West Indies ends tour of India on winning note

**BANGALORE (R) —** West Indies appropriately ended their triumphant three-month cricket tour of India on a victorious note in a one-day benefit match here on Saturday.

The touring team, who won the six-match test series 3-1 and made a clean sweep of the five one-day internationals, beat India by three wickets in a limited overs game in aid of former Indian test player Ghulam Ahmed.

India scored 208 for six in their

quota of 45 overs after winning the toss, but West Indies swept home at 211 for seven in 34.2 overs.

India's total was boosted by a fifth wicket stand of 87 between Dilip Vengsarkar, top scorer with 62, and former test batsman Gundappa Viswanath (26).

But typically powerful and polished performances from opener Gordon Greenidge (44) and Vivian Richards (54) put the touring team on the way to a decisive win.

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## Saudi banks set up firm to handle share trading

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's 11 commercial banks have set up a limited liability company to handle all share trading in the kingdom, the newspaper Al Riyadh said Saturday.

It said the company, capitalised at 11 million riyals (\$3.1 million) and equally owned by the 11 banks, had been approved by Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Ali Abdal Khail.

Saudi Arabia has no official stock market, and has no plans to establish one in the near future.

Share trading was conducted unofficially between individuals until the government in April banned such trading and ordered that all share transactions should be carried out by the kingdom's commercial banks.

The newspaper said the banks had decided to set up the new company, which will not be permitted to trade in shares on its own account, to centralise registration and transfer of shares rather than handling them individually.

Government officials have been quoted as saying Saudi Arabia will not set up a stock market until the authorities are convinced there is a need for one, to avoid the possible danger of excessive speculation.

A massive speculative boom on Kuwait's unofficial Souq Al-Manakh exchange last year, financed largely by post-dated cheques including massive premiums, collapsed last summer leaving debts totalling over \$40 billion.

The collapse sent shock waves throughout the Kuwaiti economy and the rest of the Gulf, with effects that are still being felt on business confidence as efforts to finally untangle the intricate web of debts continue.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, Bahrain plans to establish a stock exchange, which officials say could start operation early next year, and the United Arab Emirates is also drawing up regulations for a stock market.

## U.S. telephone giant breaks up

WASHINGTON (R) — American Telephone and Telegraph (ATT), the world's largest private company, was broken into 8 separate units Sunday under an agreement ending ATT's 107-year monopoly of the U.S. telephone system.

Divestiture of the firm, with assets of \$153 billion, took effect at one minute past midnight Sunday.

The formal break-up, which had no immediate practical effect on telephone service, resulted from a 1982 agreement between the company and the U.S. Justice Department designed to settle charges that ATT had illegally harmed its competitors.

Supporters of the change say it will help to usher in a new communications era in which some costs will be lowered due to increased competition and technological innovation.

But critics have charged it will mean higher bills for local telephone use and a risk that service will decline.

Telecommunications industry analysts said the break-up was not expected to have any immediate impact on Wall Street, where the old ATT was long a favoured "blue chip" investment.

Shares of the new firms have been trading for several weeks, but analysts are divided about whether they will be attractive investments over the long term.

The analysts cite uncertainties about government decisions in Washington that could affect the companies' performance.

The 8 new companies consist of a smaller ATT and 7 regional holding companies formed from the 22 operating companies that actually provide local phone service.

held to mark Sunday's changes, but late last year 45 lawyers and 210 assistants spent a day at ATT's New York headquarters exchanging final documents on the move.

ATT's holdings, including plant, equipment, and more than 180 million telephones, were reshuffled among the 8 companies, as were nearly 1 million workers.

Provisions have been made for sending new share certificates to 3 million shareholders in February, company spokesman Mr. Dick Gray said.

He said customers can choose not to do anything and they will still have the same telephone service as before.

But the divestiture gives Americans more choice.

They can buy a telephone from ATT or from a competing manufacturer that may offer a cheaper price. Or, they can continue to rent their telephones.

Competitors like MCI Communications Corporation or GTE

Corporation now offer long-distance service at prices 30 to 50 per cent below ATT rates, but have not been able to obtain the same good connections to local phone networks.

In arguing for the break-up, government lawyers said divestiture would bring closer the time when competitors would have connections equal in quality to ATT.

In the past, relatively high rates charged for long distance calls have been used to subsidise local service.

ATT has said it could lower long-distance rates if a new flat monthly charge were imposed on customers to make up for the lost subsidy from long-distance fees.

But Mr. William McKeever, an analyst for the securities firm Dean Witter Reynolds, said he feared Congress would stop the new charges, denying the newly structured companies rates needed to achieve projected revenues and earnings for 1984.

## Bahrain plans balanced budget for next 2 years

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's cabinet has agreed to a balanced budget for 1984 and 1985, Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim was quoted as saying.

In an interview with the daily Al-Khaleej, he said planned spending in 1984 would rise 4 per cent over 1983 to 545 million dinars (\$1.45 billion), and a further 6 per cent in 1985 to 575 million dinars (\$1.55 billion).

The budget has no surplus and no deficit," he was quoted as saying.

Oil revenue will account for 68 per cent of the new budget, which must be approved by the head of state, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, against 75 per cent this year.

Loans and aid will make up 10 per cent of the budget and other revenues the balance.

Expected economic growth is around 5 to 6 per cent and the

present 2.5 per cent inflation rate is expected to be kept under control, he said.

Mr. Abdul Karim said 50 per cent of the budget would go for development projects, such as electricity, water, sewage, roads, health, schools, housing and improving the airport and ports.

The country's 1982-1985 development programme originally envisaged much higher levels of government spending, but a cabinet decision was taken last February to stretch out the programme, which was by then considered too ambitious.

Mr. Abdul Karim was also quoted as saying: "We will review the budget next year regarding the working force in the country with an intention to curb the government's expenses."

Foreigners, mainly from Asia, make up 30 per cent of the country's estimated population of 380,000.

## Saudi heads Aramco

RIYADH (R) — The Arab American Oil Company (Aramco) Sunday has its first Saudi Arabian president since it was founded more than 40 years ago. A government statement 6 weeks ago named Mr. Ali Ibrahim Naimi, 46, as president from Jan. 1 to succeed Mr. H.H. Goerner, an American. Mr. Naimi was previously senior vice president, Mr. Naimi joined Aramco, which produces almost all of Saudi Arabia's oil, as an office messenger at the age of 11. The company now employs about 60,000 people, including 34,000 Saudis.

## S. Korea wins \$10b overseas contracts

SEOUL (R) — South Korean firms obtained overseas construction contracts worth a total of \$10.12 billion this year, down 24 per cent from \$13.38 billion in 1982, building ministry sources said Saturday. The fall was largely due to Middle East countries with reduced oil revenues cutting back on building projects, they said. About 60 Korean firms are engaged in construction and engineering works in 34 countries.

## Worries persist over sale of British telephone system

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is determined to sell the state telephone system — in the biggest share sale in Britain's history — despite fears that the move could jeopardise the country's economy and national security.

Anxious to cut government involvement in industry, Mrs. Thatcher plans to sell 51 per cent of British Telecom (B.T.), the giant state telecommunications network, to raise up to £4 billion (nearly \$6 billion) late this year.

Political, trade union and financial critics have said investors might be unable to absorb such a big share issue and that the sale could produce a huge private monopoly and give foreign investors access to defence secrets.

Public opinion is also swinging against the idea, with polls showing a majority of people opposing the sale.

But Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative government says it has taken advice from 6 stockbrokers and the London Business School and that all were confident the sale could go ahead.

The flotation of British Telecom is one in a series of state asset sales decreed by Mrs. Thatcher to raise £10 billion (\$14 billion) for the government by 1988.

Conservative businessmen and politicians are convinced that British Telecom must be freed from bureaucracy, trade union influence and state controls if it is to forge ahead in an era of momentous change in telecommunications.

Experts say that electronic communications systems will soon be able to handle a full range of

information, from voice and printed material to video data and live video transmissions.

Even the simple home telephone is being transformed.

The London department store Harrods offers 20 models costing up to £461 (\$655) each.

With 240,000 employees, British Telecom has a larger staff than the national networks of France and West Germany, which maintain more telephone lines.

It made profits of \$365 million (\$520 million) on turnover of £6.4 billion (\$9 billion) in 1982/83.

Mrs. Thatcher had already sold Aerospace, North Sea oil and other state holdings as part of a programme to roll back the legacy of past Labour governments.

Now she has ended Britain's formal telecommunications monopoly and made "privatisation" of British Telecom a top priority, even telling the slimmed-down state airline British Airways that it must wait until 1985 for denationalisation.

But opponents are casting doubt on the prospects for a single share sale of the whole of Telecom, judged by Mrs. Thatcher as the only practical way to sell the enterprise.

British investors buy only some £2 billion (\$2.8 billion) worth of new equities a year and the government is planning to market the shares in Japan and the United States.

The Financial Times business newspaper commented, however: "American institutions are largely ignorant about B.T. and will probably need a good deal of convincing if they are to absorb more than a token amount of the issue."

The Telecom trades unions, concerned that members will eventually lose jobs through automation and a relentless drive for profits, have been fighting hard against the sale, restoring to industrial disruption and a national media campaign.

"It is absolutely diabolical that the government should think of selling off B.T.'s technological future in Tokyo and Dallas," a post office engineering union spokesman fumed.

The unions also raised a fear of security.

"Our entire telecommunications system is designed to convert into an emergency network in a national crisis — and British Telecom is also involved in top secret defence activities."

Both political opponents and trade unions claim that the massive sale will harm Britain's economy.

A recent union campaign advertisement, based on a well-known nursery rhyme, read: "If this little piggy went to market, all the other little piggy would have none."

It argued that the sale would squeeze out other companies bidding for capital, forcing up interest rates and inflation.

Critics worry that privatisation, bringing with it a more profit-oriented philosophy, will not really break up British Telecom's monopoly.

The government has licensed the Mercury consortium to set up a rival network initially handling data exchange and aiming to offer alternative telephone services in the long term.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1984

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is excellent for starting your New Year right by getting into vocational activities and for getting the approval of influential persons. Fine time for organizing mundane activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Work on the new ideas you were inspired with yesterday. Avoid arguments with others. Control your tongue and temper.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get an early start on organizing your work load and travel plans. Control your temper and gain the upper hand.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with someone how you can become more successful, and then follow their good advice. Be more understanding with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try to please those you want as allies in the future. Rectify mistakes quickly. Contact a good friend this evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get your work done in an orderly fashion. Don't argue with a co-worker over some unimportant detail. Be cooperative.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get your important work done first. You can be with friends later. Don't be too stingy. Be tactful with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't fly off the handle at home or you will get into trouble. It is not wise to keep entertaining. Be practical.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Use tact with allies, and don't make any radical changes they would not appreciate. Take no risks that could prove costly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Ignore temptation to go out and spend lavishly; it is best to be economical. Make any needed repairs now before they get costly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't go off on any tangents; carry through with your plans. Be certain your friends are loyal. Take no risks with your credit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stop worrying about things you can't do anything about. This is not the day to settle that problem with the one you love; think about it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Look to an older pal for the assistance you may need. Make sure you are not too demanding with your wishes. Be tactful.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be someone who will have to learn self-control so that enthusiasm can be channeled in the right directions. This is a born trouble-shooter and one who will do well in organizational work. Parents should be gentle yet firm.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

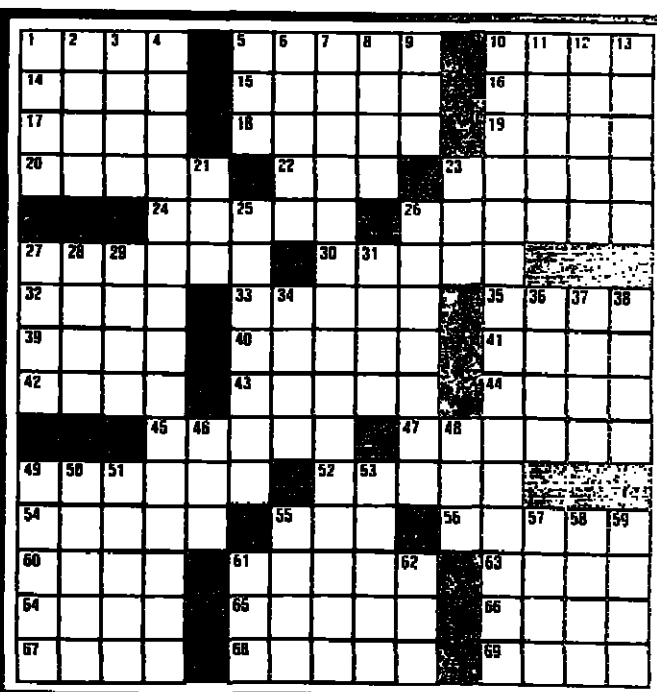
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## THE Daily Crossword by John Greenman

- |                     |                    |                      |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS              | 26 Ebbs            | 54 Meek as —         | 12 Razz                  |
| 1 Gallup's legacy   | 27 Coast bird      | 55 Wapiti            | 13 Burros                |
| 5 Trademark         | 30 Gift — (oral)   | 56 Storeroom         | 21 Tropical bird         |
| 10 — Harl           | 31 talent          | 60 A Barrett         | 23 Bus. grad's reward    |
| 14 USSR range       | 32 Elats —         | 61 Farewell          | 25 Board a coach         |
| 15 Had symptoms     | 33 Opera hero      | 62 Popular acclaim   | 26 "We should angels do" |
| 16 Dark — element   | 35 External: pref. | 64 Extremely precise | 27 Author Mario          |
| 17 Control          | 36 Galvanizing     | 65 Shore             | 28 Brown or Yale: abbr.  |
| 18 Comic Soup       | 37 Scoundrel       | 66 Hot spot          | 29 Forfeiture            |
| 19 Brownish parrots | 41 Flair           | 67 Ovid's "to be"    | 31 Freedoms' number      |
| 20 Seoul's site     | 42 Above's partner | 68 Memorial pillar   | 32 Epochs                |
| 21 Youngster        | 43 Cavern          | 69 Budget item       | 33 Hint                  |
| 22 Thick            | 44 Come-on         |                      | 34 Mountain lake         |
| 24 Tatum or Ryan    | 45 Setter type     |                      | 35 Change for a five     |
|                     | 47 Outsiders       |                      | 36 Confederate           |
|                     | 48 Bizet opera     |                      | 37 Guided                |
|                     | 52 German city     |                      | 38 — blanché             |
|                     |                    |                      | 39 Then, in Reims        |
|                     |                    |                      | 40 51 Hindi women        |
|                     |                    |                      | 41 Toast word            |
|                     |                    |                      | 42 Splice film           |
|                     |                    |                      | 43 Macadamize            |
|                     |                    |                      | 44 Portent               |
|                     |                    |                      | 45 Big top               |
|                     |                    |                      | 46 Commercial            |
|                     |                    |                      | 47 Haggard heroine       |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

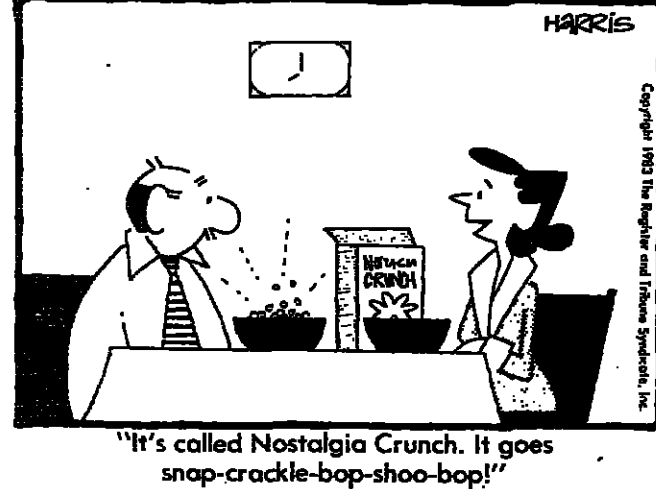
DOWN  
1 Central or MacArthur  
2 Muffin topping  
3 Den  
4 Where offense meets defense  
5 relief  
6 Dogie catcher  
7 At every moment  
8 Exigency  
9 Dentist's deg.  
10 Go straight toward  
11 Ten-percenter



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## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THICY  
KAFLE  
FELDIE  
RUSLAW



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_ HIS \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DUNCE GAUDY INVERT BODILY  
Answer: What did the bored cow say when she got up in the morning? — JUST AN UDDER DAY!

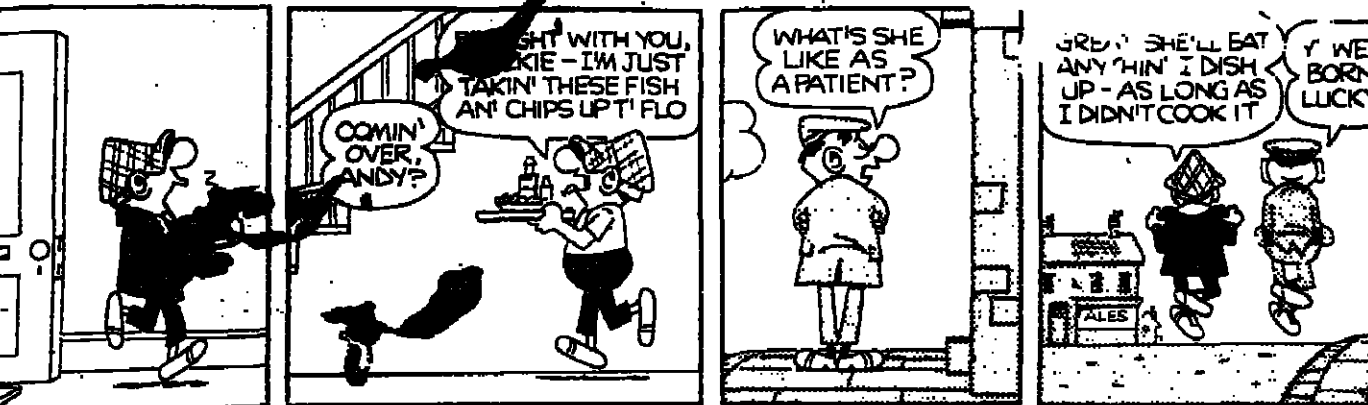
## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp





## WORLD

Tremors kill 12 people on New Year's eve

## Pakistan's earthquake death toll may rise

ISLAMABAD (R) — Officials feared the death toll from a new year's eve earthquake in mountainous northern Pakistan and Afghanistan would rise Sunday as reports trickled in from the remote snow-bound region.

The pre-dawn quake, the strongest in the area for more than a decade, hit the Hindu Kush mountain range with a force of seven on the Richter Scale, according to U.S. and Afghan seismological stations.

Pakistan, where 12 deaths have been reported so far, mostly in house collapses, said it measured 6.5 and was centered 175 miles (280 kilometres) north of its frontier province capital of Peshawar.

The tremors fanned out over 400 miles (650 kilometres), shaking the Soviet city of Tashkent to the north and India's Chandigarh to the southeast. They were felt west at least as far as Kabul.

The 10 known deaths were in villages near Peshawar and Chitral, the town closest to the epicentre, but officials said it could take several days to hear from the isolated mountain valleys further north.

Most villages in the far north are known of mud or wood-and-stone

huts clinging to the sides of the steep mountains and liable to collapse in the region's frequent earthquakes, they said.

Such villages were flattened in a quake in December 1982 in northern Afghanistan which, although weaker than Saturday's tremor, killed 515 people, injured 3,100 and made thousands homeless.

About 5,400 people died and another 16,000 were injured when a quake registering 6.3 on the Richter Scale devastated a 70-mile (110 kilometres) stretch of the Indus River Valley in December 1974.

State-run Radio Kabul reported no casualties in Afghanistan but said President Babrak Karmal rushed to oversee rescue operations in a village just west of Kabul. It reported three aftershocks, the last almost two hours after the main jolt.

The radio reported the 1982 quake promptly, but did not reveal the extent of the damage until

resistance couriers brought the news to guerrilla groups in Peshawar a month later. It confirmed the news only after the rebels' version got wide publicity.

People across northern Pakistan fled from their homes in panic when the strongest of several jolts felt their rattled doors and windows at 0453 local time (2353 GMT) on Saturday morning.

Officials in Chitral said up to 600 houses there were damaged by the quake and many mud huts built by Afghan refugees were cracked. One child was killed by a collapsing roof.

At least six people in villages near Peshawar were killed in their collapsing houses and a mother and child were crushed when a boulder crashed into their house near Mansehra, 50 miles (80 kilometres) north of Islamabad, police said. Another person was also killed near Mansehra.

More than 20 people were injured in Peshawar, two in Chitral and eight as far away as Lahore, the Punjab provincial capital near the border with India.

Radio Kabul placed the quake's epicentre in Afghanistan's Badkshan province, close to the Wakhan Corridor stretching across northern Pakistan to China.

## Brunei's sultan announces cabinet on independence day

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The sultan of Brunei Sunday announced the first cabinet for his tiny but wealthy country which gained full independence from Britain on the stroke of the new year.

The 37-year-old head of state awarded all the top government posts to members of his family, which has ruled the fabulously rich Sultanate on Borneo's northwest coast for more than 400 years.

The sultan will hold the posts of prime minister, finance minister and home affairs minister while his father, Sir Omar, will take charge of defence.

The announcement, carried live on television and radio to the country's 220,000 inhabitants, followed a low-key ceremony to mark the end of nearly a century of British rule.

Brunei had run its own internal affairs since 1959 but left responsibility for defence and foreign relations with London.

The new foreign minister will be the sultan's younger brother, Pengiran Rendaan Wazir Pengiran Muda Mohammad Bolkiah. Another brother, Pengiran Digadong Pengiran Muda Jeter Bolkiah, was named minister of culture, youth and sports.

Announcing the line-up, the sultan, Sir Muda Hassanah Bolkiah, said he had abolished the post of chief minister and state secretary.

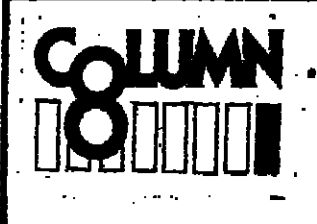
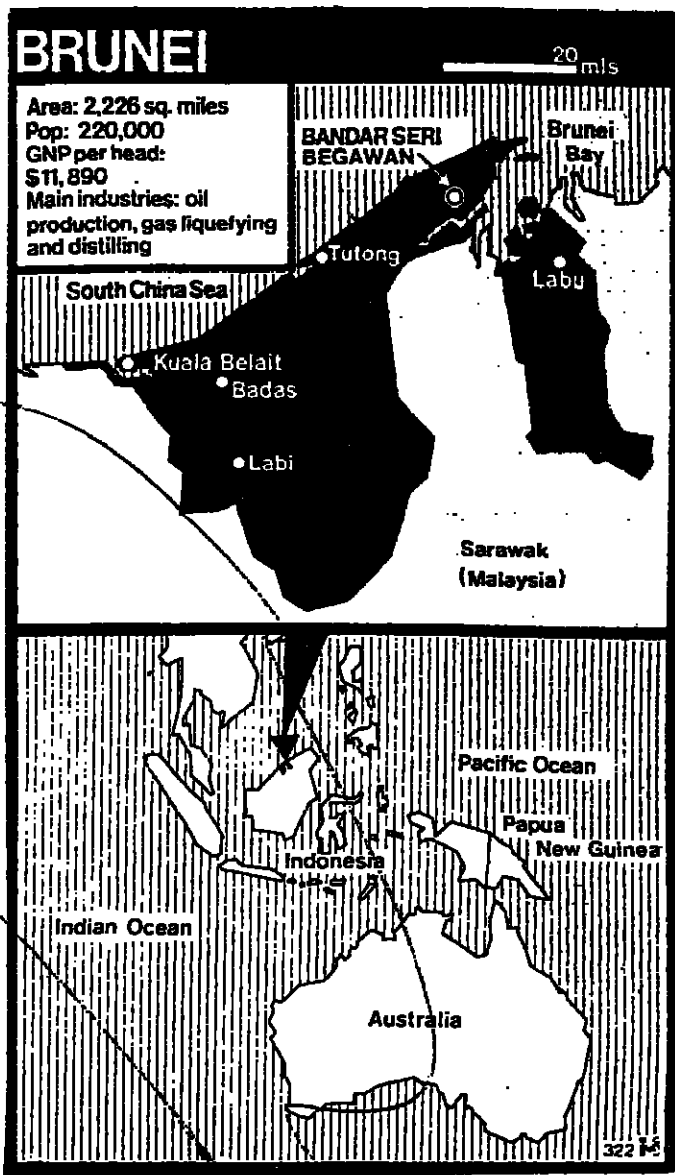
As head of state and head of government, he will remain in charge of all key departments of government including the treasury. He will be responsible for the oil and gas industries which account for 99 per cent of Brunei's exports and pay for the whole machinery of state.

Earlier the sultan had read a formal proclamation of independence before about 50,000 of his mainly Malay Muslim subjects in the main square of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

He pledged that his new government would uphold the principles of liberty, trust and justice and would ensure peace, security, welfare and happiness for the people.

The authorities deliberately played down the ceremony in order not to raise people's expectations that independence would bring drastic changes, diplomats said.

But not many are clamouring for change in a country which boasts a per capita income of \$22,000 a year, the highest in Asia, and provides a cradle-to-grave welfare programme for its people.



## Worms on the march in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Millions of grain-eating worms are on the march in several parts of Tanzania devouring everything in their path, the newspaper Mzalendo reported Sunday. It said the army worms, a type of caterpillar, were munching sorghum, millet and maize crops in central, coastal and northern regions of the country.

## Wild elephants kill 10 people in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Wild elephants trampling through tea gardens and villages have killed at least 10 people in the past month in Assam state in northeast India, local officials said Saturday.

## Rose Kennedy hospitalised

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (R) — Rose Kennedy, 93-year-old mother of assassinated President Kennedy, has been admitted to St. Mary's Hospital here with a viral infection, a hospital spokeswoman said Friday. Her condition was described as "stable and improving." Mrs. Kennedy has a winter home in Palm Beach. Spokeswoman Ruth Hardy said Mrs. Kennedy was admitted to the hospital on Thursday as a precautionary measure. "She's feeling better today and is in good spirits," Ms. Hardy said.

## Soviet 'spy ship' reported in distress near U.S. base

SAN DIEGO (R) — A Soviet "spy ship" ran up distress flags off the U.S. naval base of San Diego, U.S. coast guard officials said. They said radio calls from the coast guard Saturday were ignored by the vessel. Gavril Sarichev, which was then 11 nautical miles off San Diego, the flags came down after about an hour. But Commander Roger Copeland, a spokesman for the U.S. Third Fleet, said in Honolulu the navy had received no indication the Soviet vessel was in distress. He said the ship was last reported 60 nautical miles off San Diego, a major base for U.S. aircraft carriers, and heading north west.

## Birthday cake to mark Bhutto's 56th birthday

KARACHI (R) — The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is preparing a 56-pound birthday cake to mark the 56th birthday of its executed founder, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a party spokesman said Sunday. The cake will be cut at the Bhutto family mausoleum on Wednesday, which would have been the 56th birthday of the party leader. He was executed in 1979 after being overthrown by now President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq two years earlier. The cake-cutting will be part of a memorial ceremony to be held at the family mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Buz, a tiny village in the northern part of Bhutto's native Sind province.

## Man's ape ancestor older than previously thought

WASHINGTON (R) — An ape widely believed to be man's earliest ancestor dates back at least 32 million years, five million years more than previously thought, the U.S. National Science Foundation said here Sunday. The foundation said a team from Duke University had found remains of the "dawn apes" buried below lava in the Fayum province of Egypt. Potassium argon-dating of lava covering the bones suggested the apes lived in North Africa at least 32 million years ago, according to expedition director Elwyn Simons. One of the skulls had a much more expanded forehead than the others, suggesting some of the Fayum apes had already developed unusually large brains, he said.

## TASS confirms Gromyko, Shultz meeting in Sweden

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet News Agency TASS confirmed Saturday night that Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko would travel to Stockholm to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz but warned against expecting too much.

The U.S. State Department said Friday that Mr. Gromyko had agreed to meet Mr. Shultz on Jan. 18 at the European Disarmament Conference in Stockholm. The TASS statement was the first acknowledgement by the Soviet side.

TASS said the United States was issuing optimistic statements about the meeting to mislead public opinion into thinking that things could continue as before the deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe.

It again accused the United States of responsibility for the breakdown of U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva.

"It goes without saying that neither the Stockholm conference

nor bilateral contacts can substitute for the Geneva talks which were disrupted through the fault of the American administration," it said.

TASS repeated Soviet charges that the United States had tried from the start to disrupt the Geneva talks so that it would have a pretext for going ahead with the missile deployment.

Statements from Washington that disarmament control problems would be discussed between Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Shultz were not realistic, TASS said.

"It is noteworthy that the agenda of the first stage of the Stockholm conference provides for examining only confidence building measures. In other words what they are talking about in Washington does not exist in reality," TASS said.

"All of this talk on the eve of the meeting at the Stockholm conference is clearly designed to instill complacency in the public of the U.S."

## Washington to seek more aid for El Salvador

NEW YORK (R) — The Reagan administration will seek additional aid for El Salvador because the Salvadoran government appears to have curbed the activities of right-wing death squads, the New York Times reported Sunday.

State Department officials quoted by the Times said the administration intended to ask Congress for a substantial increase in aid due to a reorganisation of the military command and a significant drop in the numbers slain by death squads.

The State Department said it could not confirm the report. Congress has already allocated nearly \$65 million in military aid to El Salvador's government, which is locked in a struggle with left-wing guerrillas.

About 20 million of that aid is contingent on the human rights performance by the Salvadoran government, according to the Times.

Officials said the State Department was drafting a special report on the political, economic and military situation in El Salvador to be given to Congress on Jan. 16, the Times said.

It quoted officials as saying the recent reorganisation of the military command led to the removal of the heads of the Treasury, intelligence, and national police departments, all of whom had been implicated in the death squads.

An official also said the number of people slain by death squads had dropped from 25 a week to as few as three recently, according to the Times.

The report to be drafted by the State Department is intended to replace the certification previously mandated by Congress that progress was being made on

human rights in El Salvador, the Times said.

It quoted a State Department official as saying "it is not an unfair assumption" that the administration will make a supplemental aid request for the 1984 financial year and seek an increase in the 1985 financial year.

Congress approved \$64.8 million in military aid for El Salvador before it adjourned last November.

## Guerrillas attack garrison

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran troops swept the northern province of Chalatenango in pursuit of guerrillas who destroyed a garrison in a surprise mortar attack on Thursday night, military sources said.

They said the guerrillas rained mortar shells on El Paraiso Camp, about 30 kilometres north of here, and forced out the 500 defenders of the fourth infantry brigade, which lost two colonels and a number of dead in the attack.

Residents in the area reported that the guerrillas had taken 30 or 40 army prisoners but there was no confirmation of this.

The assault was co-ordinated with an attack on nearby Chalatenango city and took the army completely by surprise, the military sources said.

Two weeks ago poor intelligence also failed to detect about 1,000 guerrillas massing for a successful assault on a key communications base on Cacahuatiqué mountain some 110 kilometres east of here, they said.

Like Cacahuatiqué, Chalatenango City and El Paraiso are close to guerrilla strongholds in mountainous areas on the Honduran border.

## Nakasone to make several overseas tours this year

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, pursuing his drive to give Japan a more active voice in international affairs, said Sunday he would make a series of overseas tours this year to make personal contact with other leaders.

"I believe in personal rapport and mutual trust with leaders of other countries," he told a televised press conference.

Mr. Nakasone said recently he did not view the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's loss of 36 seats in last month's general election as a vote of disapproval for the outward-looking policies he has pressed during his 13 months in office.

But he said Sunday that in his contacts with foreign leaders, particularly those of the United States, he would not sacrifice Japan's national interests to get friendly relations with other countries.

He said he would visit China in March, attend a summit of industrial democracies in London in June and also visit some other European countries.

Mr. Nakasone said he would also like to visit Asian countries to which a Japanese prime minister had not been for some time and

wanted to go to Australia and New Zealand.

He toured the five member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Brunei last May after travelling to South Korea and Washington last January.

He told his press conference that he saw no need to visit Washington again at present, but said Japan would make no easy concessions in talks on imports of U.S. farm products.

"I have in mind Japan's national interest and the future of Japanese farms before giving thought to relations with other countries," he said. "There are things Japan can do and things Japan cannot do."

Mr. Nakasone said he would seek an amicable agreement on the issue because of the importance of the United States to Japan.

On relations with Moscow, which sank to their lowest level for many years in 1983, Mr. Nakasone said only that it was his policy to continue a patient dialogue with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Nakasone also said he would try to harness the vitality of the private sector to speed the recovery of the Japanese economy in 1984.

## UNESCO chief regrets announced U.S. pullout

PARIS (R) — The head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) expressed regret at the decision of the United States to withdraw from the Paris-based world body.

In a first official reaction to the announced U.S. withdrawal, a communiqué published here Friday night said Amadou Mahtar Mbow was studying the terms of a communication from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in order to reply to it.

The U.S., which provides one quarter of the UNESCO budget, served formal notice of withdrawal Thursday. It will become effective on Dec. 31, 1984.

The communiqué said the director-general had consistently stressed the need to safeguard the universality of the 161-member organisation.

The director-general "can only regret a decision which, if put into effect, would be prejudicial to the principle of that universality," the communiqué said.

The withdrawal decision follows growing U.S. dissatisfaction over what one U.S. government spokesman recently described as "serious difficulties with UNESCO including politicisation, budget mismanagement, attempts to restrict the freedom of the press and impose economic regulation".

China deplores U.S. decision PEKING (R) — China Friday deplored the U.S. decision to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and urged Washington to change its mind.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told the New China News Agency: "The accusation made by the United States that UNESCO is manipulated by Third World countries is groundless."

The spokesman said UNESCO played a positive role in international cooperation, and added: "It will be welcomed if the United States reconsiders its decision and continues to play its role in UNESCO."

Gerhardt said he was working on the instructions of an unnamed but friendly country to feed the Soviets "disinformation".

He said the court dismissed Mr. Gerhardt's defence and also that of his wife, who claimed she initially believed Mr. Gerhardt's explanation that he was involved in counter-intelligence and when she began to have doubts was forced by threats to continue.

Armed police ringed the court when sentence was delivered Saturday and a helicopter circles overhead.

Journalists were again excluded from court and the sentences were announced on the steps by Cape Attorney-General D.J. Rossouw who refused to make any comment.

Defence Counsel John Van

## Argentina to try 3 more members of military junta

BUENOS AIRES (R) — All three members of the military junta that led Argentina to defeat in last year's Falkland (Malvinas) war were charged before a court martial Friday for authorising the systematic abuse of human rights at home.

Former President and Army Commander Leopoldo Galtieri, former navy chief Jorge Anaya and former air force Commander Basilio Lami Dozo appeared briefly before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to be notified of the charges against them.

They are already on trial before Argentina's highest military court for leading the country to a humiliating defeat in the Falklands conflict with Britain.

The Armed Forces Supreme Council began indicating the members of all three military juntas that ruled Argentina from 1976 until last year on charges of authorising the kidnap, torture, and murder of thousands of political detainees.

Argentina's newly-elected president, Raul Alfonsín, ordered the court martial three weeks ago as part of his campaign to investigate the widespread abuse of human rights during the last eight years of military rule and punish those responsible.

On Thursday the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces notified former Presidents Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, Admiral Armando Lambruschini and air force Brigadier Omar Graffigna of the human rights charges against them.

Two more former junta members, Admiral Emilio Massera and air force Brigadier Orlando Agosti have still to appear before the court.

Mr. Castro said Cuba might be willing to withdraw advisers from Central America if a settlement was reached through discussion between countries involved.

Asked about Mr. Reagan's charge that Cuba acts as a puppet of Moscow, Mr. Castro said in an interview to mark the 25th anniversary of Cuba's revolution last week: "He's a total liar."

"There is no hope for dialogue as long as Mr. Reagan keeps on thinking that what is happening in Central America is the result of malevolent orchestrations by the Soviet Union and Cuba," he told Newsweek magazine.

Mr. Castro also attacked the U.S. invasion of Grenada, saying it was a cowardly act that served only to heighten the fighting spirit of Nicaragua, Cuba and revolutionary forces in El Salvador.

Other invasions might follow "in the light of the irrationality that moves Reagan and his visceral anti-Communism to wage a 'holy war' in Central America," he said.

Kremlin congratulates MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin Saturday congratulated Cuban leader Fidel Castro on the 25th anniversary of the revolution which brought him to power on Jan. 1, 1959, but the message was not signed by ailing President Yuri Andropov.

The text of the telegram, published by the official News Agency TASS, was signed by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, but with no individual names.

Western diplomats in Moscow cautioned against reading too much into the absence of a direct reference to Mr. Andropov but added that protocol would normally call for his signature on a message addressed personally to a direct counterpart.

## South African spy jailed for life

CAPE TOWN (R) — Former South African navy Commodore Dieter Felix Gerhardt was jailed for life Saturday after being found guilty of spying for the Soviet Union.

His Swiss-born wife Ruth, convicted of helping him to operate a spy network, was given a 10-year sentence.

Mr. Gerhardt, who was head of South Africa's sensitive Simons town naval base until his arrest last January, was said during the trial to have been a Soviet agent for 21 years.

The 45-day trial was held behind closed doors, but presiding Judge George Munnik took the unusual step of holding a press conference after the couple's conviction last Thursday.

Mr. Munnik told reporters Mr.

Nickert told reporters an application for leave to appeal against conviction and sentence had been lodged. No date had been fixed, but it was expected to take place soon.

Mr. Gerhardt looked grim as he walked from the court, but his 41-year-old wife smiled at the crowd outside before they were taken away in a heavily guarded police car.

The couple has posed for photographers before going into court and Ruth Gerhardt, wearing a creased beige dress, jokingly said: "I'm not good for pictures today. It looks as if I have slept in my dress."

Under South African law, the couple could have been sentenced to death.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
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## ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠83 ♥K1062 ♦Q652 ♣732  
Partner opens the bidding with two hearts. What do you respond?  
A.—There is a conventional bid that describes your hand exactly. When partner opens with a demand bid and you have good trump support but no side-suit first or second-round control, jump to game in his suit. Bid four hearts.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQJ83 ♥653 ♦95 ♣864  
Partner opens the bidding with two hearts. What do you respond?  
A.—You do not have the values for a positive response, despite your good five-card major suit. You need 8 points or 1½ quick tricks for a positive response. Bid two no trump.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠953 ♥QJ854 ♦A8 ♣Q74  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?  
A.—Don't let that fifth trump fool you. You have a perfectly sound raise to two hearts, and there is no reason to bid anything else. You have very little in the way of distribution and sound defensive values.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠7 ♥QJ854 ♦A8763 ♣92  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?  
A.—This time you have a classic raise to four hearts —

five trumps, a singleton and minimal defensive values. This hand could belong to the opponents in spades (even a slam is not beyond reason), so make it as difficult as possible for them to get into the auction.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠1076 ♥AQJ62 ♦A763 ♣9  
The bidding has proceeded: South West North East  
1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass  
What do you bid now?

A.—If you bid two diamonds, the problems come at the next round. You will feel guilty that you did not support spades and so take another bid. That will make you sound stronger than you are. You do better to limit your hand immediately with a raise to two spades, even though you have only three trumps.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AQ83 ♥KQ7 ♦AQJ92 ♣K  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

A.—Normally, when an opponent opens the bidding in your best suit, it is right to pass and see how the auction develops. Here, however, you are just too strong for that action — there is too strong a likelihood that the bidding will die right there and that your side could be missing game. We would take our chances with a takeout-double, intending to bid no trump should partner respond in clubs.

مركزنا الجديد